

THE BEST SELLING MAGAZINE FOR THE

AMSTRAD PCW

**8000
PLUS**

8256 • 8512 • 9512

ISSUE 43 • APRIL 1990 • £1.75



The Time Machine

Discover your family history with the PCW

- Upgrade your PCW
- Best books to buy
- Begin with BASIC
- Careers in computing



WIN PCW DRAW • LOCOSCRIPT • SOFTWARE GUIDE

JEM COMPUTERS

FACSIMILE

RICOH Fax 07
External
Fuji Features
Fax
£650

CANON Fax 80
Send and
Receive
£599

BROTHER Fax
16 Shades
Touch Dial
Group 3
£499

PANASONIC
US 130
On Site Maint
+ Installation
£699

Fax Card

CFAX SR £180
CFAX SRI £220

AMIGA 500

A500 + TV MODULATOR
+ ACCESSORIES From **£259**

A500 + TV MODULATOR +
— RETURN OF THE JEDI — CUSTODIAN
— MERCENARY — WARLOCKS QUEST
— ZYNAPPS — HELLBENT —
— POWERPLAY — ELIMINATOR
— 23 PUBLIC DOMAIN GAMES
£320

RAM EXPANSION **£99**

SECOND DRIVE **£75**

ATARI ST

ATARI 1MB EXPLORER PACK **£220**

ATARI 1MB + SM 124 MONITOR **£320**

Super Pack 21 games +
organiser software database
spreadsheet wp **£290**

THE Star
COMPUTER PRINTERS

LC10 **£135** LC24-10 **£199** LC10 COLOUR **£175**

Atari PC3 IBM compact, 640k RAM,
30 Megabyte, Hard disk, EGA Monitor,
102 key keyboard, mouse.
All for £725.00 + VAT

INCLUDES ON SITE MAINTENANCE

FREE 1 DAY'S TRAINING

Call now for details (6 HRS)

When you buy complete
IBM compatible
system **WELL WORTH IT**

TEL 0202 715989

Unit 10,
Wessex Trade Centre,
Poole,
Dorset

COURIER DELIVERY

£10 Please allow up to
28 days for delivery

AMSTRAD COMPUTERS

PCW 8256	£289	9512
PCW 8512	£374	
PCW 9215	£399	385!
		Bargain
PC 1512	£359	COLOUR
PC 1512	£437	COLOUR
		COLOUR
PC 1640SD	£454	EGA
PC 1640DD	£519	£625
PC 1640HD	£678	£679
		£848

**Best
Possible
Prices
!!!!!!!!!!!!**

SAMSUNG

3000 DD	£525
3000 20Mb HD	£745
6000 SD	£895
6000 20 Mb HD	£1,120
3001/single drive	£460

**ON SITE MAINTENANCE
COMES FREE!
WITH SAMSUNG**

HARD DISK

21 MB HARO CARO	£199.00
32 MB HARD CARD	£210.00

**ALL PRICES
EXCLUDE VAT**

**CANON BJ130
INK JET PRINTER £575**

**SHOWROOM OPEN
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
9.30 to 5.30 pm**

**CALL IN TO OUR
EXTENSIVE
SHOWROOM IN
POOLE, DORSET**

PRINTERS

9 PIN

MT81	£110.00	EPSON LX800	£150.00
CIT 1200	£120.00	KXP1081	£120.00
STAR LC10	£135.00	CIT 180E	£145.00
SEIKOSHA 1-80A	£115.00	STAR LC10 [COL]	£195.00

24 PIN

SEIKOSHA SL80A	£235.00	STAR LC24-10	£245.00
NEC P2200	£275.00	EPSON LO500	£275.00
KXP1124	£275.00		

LASER

BROTHER HLB	£1,400.00	CANON LP08	£1,275.00
STAR LASER B	£1,230.00	KXP4450	£1,350.00
HERMES 800	£1,099.00	HP LASER JET II	£1,270.00
MT905	£950.00		

All accessories low low prices

All Epson Printers	25% Discount
All Brother Printers	20% Discount
All NEC Printers	25% Discount
All Toshiba Printers/Lasers	POA
HP/Roland/Calcomp Plotters	
Minimum	20% Discount
All Hewlett Packard Lasers	25% Discount
All Amstrad Printers	POA

PC 2000 SERIES

	MONO	COLOUR	12" HI-RES	14" HI-RES
			COLOUR	COLOUR
PC 2086 SD	£500	£580	£660	£740
PC 2086 DD	£560	£640	£720	£800
PC 2086 HD30	£720	£800	£880	£960
PC 2286 DD	£866	£953	£1040	£1126
PC 2286 HD40	£1040	£1126	£1213	£1299
PC 2386 HD65	£1732	£1819	£1905	£1992

5 1/4" 360K External Drive for PC2000 **£155**
5 1/4" 1.2Mb External Drive for PC2000 **£165**

THE SPECIALS!!!

- 1) CITIZEN 1200 **£75.00**
- 2) Lq 3500 24 pin **£165.00**
- 3) 1081 Monitor CBM **£145.00**
- 4) 9512 **£385**
- 5) Atari 520 St (1/2 mb) **£150**
- 6) PC 1512 20Mb MONO **£515**
COLOUR **£599**

PCW	Serial	OMP PTR	Lotus
light pen	PTR	2000II	Symph
£35	£25	9 pin £55	£75

IBM
computers
discount **30%**

Toshiba
portables
discount **25%**

SOFTWARE

Full software list inc:

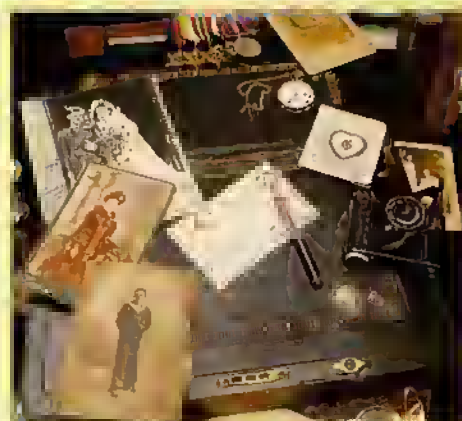
LOTUS	SAGE
ASHTON TATE	MICROSOFT
DIGITAL (GEM)	Supercalc
Multimate	Ventura
Smart	Ability
Wordstar	Clipper
WordPerfect	

8000 PLUS

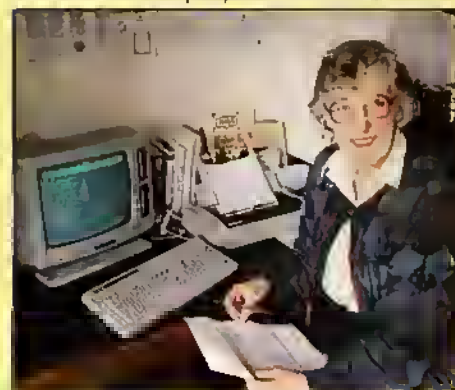
OPENING MENU

Features

- 10 GENEALOGY AND THE PCW**
We discover the relationship
- 18 SPEAKING VOLUMES**
The best in PCW learning is on parade!
- 24 BACK TO BASIC**
Geoffrey Childs shows you how to get on the right side of Mailland BASIC – and stay there
- 29 OWNBASE**
We report on the organisation that unites home-workers
- 34 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT**
Writing for foreign magazine markets; Nick Vandome reveals all
- 39 STANDING THE TEST OF TIME**
David Frost talks about life with Cirtech's Diamond hard disc
- 45 PCW UPGRADE**
We walk you through it
- 52 CAREERS IN COMPUTING**
Annette Dougal investigates the market place



- 10 GENEALOGY AND THE PCW**
We look at the programs available and talk to the people who use them



- 29 OWNBASE**
Chris Oliver brings the workers in out of the cold



- 34 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT**
Nick Vandome gets it together down under



- 45 PCW UPGRADE**
Follow our foolproof step by step walkthrough; you can't go wrong

Reviews

- 26 GAMES**
We review two games for the PCW from Classic Quests
- 48 9S12 RESCUE KIT**
The 8256 and 9512 read the same discs!
- 50 IT'S FELIX**
Meet a new file-indexer for your PCW
- 51 BOOK LOOK**
We flick through the latest releases

Regulars

- 5 NEWS PLUS**
The pages that keep you ahead of PCW news
- 15 MASTERFILE 8000**
Learn how to get the best out of Masterfile – the easy way
- 20 LOCOSCRIPT**
Here's one program that's never stuck for a layout
- 36 SPEAKEASY**
Get SWOTting with Brian Holley!
- 42 CASE IN POINT**
The PCW helps a London copywriter
- 59 LISTINGS**
Learn how to program your PCW and make BASIC work for you
- 67 LANGFORD**
What do magazine editors really want? Langford reveals all
- 68 TIPOFFS**
Four pages of shortcuts to success
- 75 GOOD SOFTWARE GUIDE**
Spreadsheets, graphics and games
- 82 SPECIAL OFFERS**
Window-shopping the easy way
- 86 POSTSCRIPT**
Your letters start here
- 90 BACK PAGE**
Get pencils at the ready to win a copy of HTB Draw

FUTURE PUBLISHING
BEAUFORD COURT
30 MONMOUTH STREET
BATH BA1 2AP
TEL • 0225 442244
FAX • 0225 446019

EDITOR
Sharon Bradley

REVIEWS EDITOR
Tim Smith

ART EDITOR
Julie Barnes

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Sophie Lankenau

ART ASSISTANT
Paul Morgan

AD PRODUCTION
Fiona Milne

ADVERTISEMENT
MANAGER
Elsie Brooks

PUBLISHER
Kevin Cox

FUTURE PUBLISHING
THE OLD BARN
SOMERTON
SOMERSET • TA11 7PY
TEL • 0458 74011

MAIL ORDER QUERIES
Sarah Richards
TEL • 0458 74011

SUBSCRIPTION
ENQUIRIES
Christine Stacey

PHOTOGRAPHY
ASHTON JAMES
TEL • 02216 6686

COLOUR ORIGINATION
RCS REPRO
TORQUAY

PRINTED AND BOUND BY
CHASE WEB
ST IVES COMPANY
ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL

DISTRIBUTION
COMAG
WEST DRAYTON
MIDDLESEX UB7 7OE

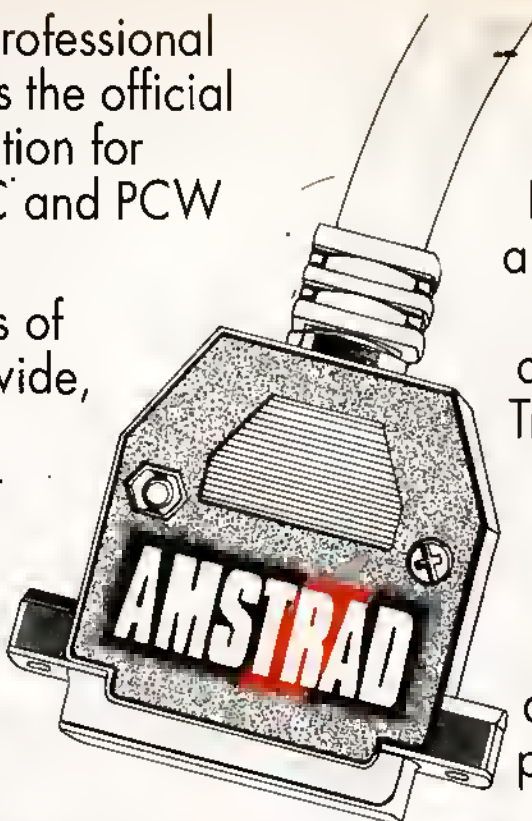
© FUTURE PUBLISHING LTD
1990

8000 Plus is an independent publication. Future Publishing Ltd have no link with Amstrad plc. We welcome contributions from readers – please enclose a SAE with submissions & return of the material is required. Payment for accepted articles is made 4 weeks after publication date. We take great care to ensure that what we print is accurate, but we cannot accept liability for any mistakes or omissions. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without our permission.

ABC Jan July 89 30,583

The Amstrad Professional User Group is the official support organisation for Amstrad PC, PPC and PCW owners.

With thousands of members nationwide, the Amstrad Professional User Group has proved, beyond doubt, to be **the** essential add-on for Amstrad Computer Users.



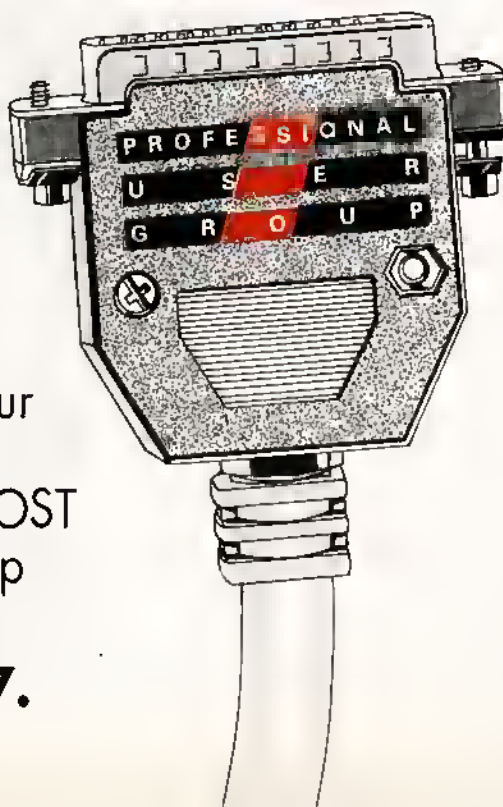
Members enjoy On-Line Technical Assistance, Substantial Discounts on Hardware and Software, a monthly Magazine, Newsletter and Offers, Nationwide Training, Welcome Pack and choice of quality Free Gift upon joining.

Gold Card Membership is designed for the larger, possibly corporate user.

THE ESSENTIAL ADD-ON

Silver Card Membership is for the standard scale Amstrad User.

For full details and our full colour brochure, simply return the FREEPOST coupon (no stamp required) or ring **091 510 8787.**



Please send me Membership details of the Amstrad Professional User Group. I am resident in the U.K.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Day Phone Number.....

Machine Type.....

Send to:
**Amstrad
Professional
User Group,
FREEPOST,
Sunderland
SR1 1BR**



Going home

PCW owners are not like other dedicated computer users. That's because many of you bought your machines exclusively for home use to help you pursue a particular interest or hobby. Although there is nothing to stop the business-conscious PCW owner from harnessing the machine's power to increase his or her productivity, not everyone is necessarily interested in 'go-faster' software offering vapour-

trailed efficiency.

The non-business software market is a perfectly legitimate one. And the PCW has shown that it's not averse to stretching its talents into areas that may be considered 'off the beaten track.' Take, for example, the family historians that we spoke to in the course of putting together this month's cover feature.

A close inspection of family history computer groups dotted around the country reveals that many members are bringing the

benefits of modern computing – principally in the form of Amstrad PCWs – to bear on a subject with which it would appear to have nothing in common whatsoever; undoubtedly, a successful marrying of the old with the new.

Okay, genealogy might not be everybody's cup of tea, but it illustrates a point: the PCW is able to exert a positive influence in areas of home computing that aren't any the less legitimate because they are unusual.

Journeying into the past with

your PCW can be just as productive as basing data or spreading sheets. So, don't feel guilty, if, as a home user, you feel no desire to explore these options. Your PCW represents the acceptable face of home computing, and, as such, it should be working at all times with you, not against you.

So, as the magazine that's trying to make that true for most PCW owners most of the time, don't forget to tell us about it, will you?

Are you a winner?

Every month sees another 8000 Plus competition (see the back page of this issue for the chance to win PCWdraw) but the January contest seemed to exert a strange pull on our readers. Maybe it was the fact that the first prize was a Cirtech Diamond hard disc, or maybe it was because the second prize was a Hayes modem – these two alone are worth around £600. Or maybe it was because the other thirteen prizes looked so good. Whatever the reason, the entries came in their thousands and not just from dear old blighty.

We had replies from as far afield as Poland, France, Ilford, Germany, Oman, Spain, Belgium, Eire, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Most of the population of Luxembourg appear to have entered (we're sorry that neither of them were picked out of the office skip). But now for the people who were chosen.

Our new Production Editor Sophie Lankenau was given the task of wading through the cards to pick the winners and her hand alighted upon the following:

1st prize of the Cirtech Diamond hard disc

– Mr D C Owen, Lancashire

2nd prize of the Hayes modem

– Ms I Gashes, Isle of Man

3rd prize of the SCA Interface

– Lief Nielson, Sweden

4th prize of the Composer's Pen

– Mr Anderson, Jersey

5th/6th prizes of Protex –

– Mr R F Warren, Bedford

– Ms M Hogg, Liverpool

7th/8th prizes of Masterfile 8000

– Mr J Morris, Edinburgh

– Mr J Oxely, Cambridge

9th/10th/11th prizes of LocoFile

– Mr P Muff, Gloucester

– Mr M Keeble, Ipswich

– Mr J Anderson,

New Zealand

12th/13th/14th/15th prizes of

Streamline BASIC

– Mr S T J Wright, Essex

Thank you to all the other entrants who were not lucky enough to be drawn. Thank you to the person who got everything correct, was drawn but didn't put their name and address on the card. And finally thank you to all the software and hardware houses who donated the prizes. The winners should be receiving their just deserts within the next few weeks.

NEWS

by Tim Smith

New kid on the block

Welcome to our new Production Editor. Sophie Lankenau is hoping that during her time on 8000 Plus she will be able to travel the world and help needy children. So far she has found that the job is more a case of travelling to the sandwich shop to keep the Editor in brie and avocado baps ...



8000 Plus in new staff member shock!

The mouse that roared



The latest incarnation of the Kempston mouse.

A long-standing PCW relationship has been renewed. Kempston are to market a new mouse for the PCW. Previously they had used the Swiss-based mouse manufacturer Logitech to produce the actual hardware which was compatible with software as diverse as Micro Design II and Kempston's own DataFax organiser package.

Deciding to move away from Logitech meant that, according to a

spokesperson at Kempston, "We have had to wait some time for a good source of hardware and eventually agreed a deal in the Far East." The company who now make the mice is Taiwanese based Naksha. They have an excellent reputation and also make the only mouse which is compatible with the Commodore Amiga, Atari ST and the PC. Agreeing an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) deal – otherwise known as badging – with Naksha looks like excellent news for PCW owners. What badging actually means is

that while Kempston don't actually make the product, their name will be emblazoned upon it.

The mouse looks elegant and feels substantial.

● Cover Story

This month's cover was inspired by our genealogy feature on page 10. All the items included are personal possessions of the 8000 Plus team. Photography by Ashton James.

The January competition entries might have made a mess of the office floor ... but did you win?

THE WEST OF BRITAIN BUSINESS SERVICES

You Must Add V.A.T. To Our Prices - Carriage Is FREE!

AMSTRAD PCW'S

* FREE DISC CONTAINING DATABASE, GRAPHS PACK, PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST & GAMES
PCW8256 £326.00
PCW8512 £408.65
PCW9512 (with sheet feeder) P.O.A.

WE ARE SANYO DEALERS AND THE NEW SANYO RANGE IS HERE!

The newest products from Sanyo are now available from W.B.B.S. The MBC computer range is designed with the very highest quality in mind - and it shows. Contact us for full details

* THE EXECUTIVE RANGE FROM OSICOM *

EXECUTIVE 8810 NEW LOWER PRICES!!!
SD/MM - Amber or Green £487.50
20Mb HD/MM - Amber or Green £675.00
20Mb HD/EGA £955.00
30Mb HD/EGA £980.00
30Mb HD/VGA £1060.00
40Mb HD/MM - Amber or Green £739.00
40Mb HD/VGA £1099.00
EXECUTIVE 28612.5 - WITH OISK CACHE! 1MB RAM PLUS 12 MONTH ON SITE WARRANTY
SD/MM - Amber or Green £899.00
20Mb (40ms) HO - Amber or Green £1030.00
20Mb (40ms) HO - EGA £1299.00
40Mb (28ms) HO - VGA £1529.00

AMSTRAD PC'S - SOME SAMPLE PRICES:
PC1512 Double Drive Mono £459.00
PC1640 Double Drive Mono £535.50
PC1640 30Mb HD Mono £711.40
PC2086 Single Drive 12" Mono £540.00
PC2086 HD 12" Mono Oisplay £769.00
PC2086 HO 14" Colour £859.00

***** LINK YOUR PCW TO A PC! *****
If you wish to run your accounts on a PC but use your trusty PCW as a very cost effective workstation, send for details of Compact Accounts PC2PC!

OUR GUARANTEE

Is a bit special. If any computer or printer bought from us develops any fault under warranty we will collect, repair and return at our cost.

All you have to do is telephone!

PRINTERS

CITIZEN RANGE (2 YEAR GUARANTEE), NEC, PANASONIC, EPSON, AMSTRAD AND MORE!

PCW HARDWARE

PAGE 5.25" 2nd drive - with its own built in interface & power supply - TOOS software allows data transfer from PCW/PC/PCW!! Easy to fit. £121.70

3.5" EXTERNAL DRIVE FOR PCW P.O.A.
MEMORY UPGRADE - PRICES DOWN £35.00
PCW 2nd 3" drive (FO4) £113.00
PCW8000's Wire Printer Stand £9.13
Any width Printer Stand - Rugged £14.75
Printer Cleaning Kit-PCW8000's £14.80
Mouse Mats £4.35
"Margin Maker" - aligns paper £9.90
Spoke protector plug - helps protect computers against power surges £10.25

***** HARD DISCS - EASY LIVING *****
VORTEX 40MB PCW HARD DISK £495.60
DIAMOND 32MB PCW HARD DISK £459.00
DIAMOND 49MB PCW HARD DISK £539.00
THE DIAMOND RANGE CAN BE SHARED BY MULTIPLE PCW'S! DETAILS AVAILABLE ON ALL THE DRIVES MENTIONED HERE

NEW FROM SCA - the SCA plug-in RamPac! Simply plugs onto a PCW expansion port to provide an extra 512k of RAM (see details before purchasing!) £114.00
SCA. Serial/Parallel (RS232) Interface With Real Time Clock! £50.25
Without Real Time Clock! £41.55

MODEMS

MIRACLE TECHNOLOGY MODEMS
WS4000 £147.80
WS4000PCW, c/w Integral Interface for the PCW & connecting lead! £147.80

PAGE - MODEMS
LINNET-INTELLIGENT, V21/V23 £130.40
Cable to PCW INTERFACE £13.90
DIALUP-Communications Software £58.90

BBO OUST COVER SET - SIMPLY THE BEST
PCW8256/8512 £10.40
PCW9512 £11.13
PC1640/1512 state col or mono £7.85
AMSTRAD PPC £5.20
PAGE OISK DRIVE COVER £5.00
OVER 800 TYPES OF COVER AVAILABLE!
PLEASE STATE MODEL WHEN ORDERING

DISCS

CF2 3" MAXCELL PCW/CPC X 10 £20.00
CF2 3" MAXCELL PCW/CPC X 5 £11.00
CF2 3" MAXCELL (cashed) X 10 £22.00
CF2 3" AMSOFT PCW/CPC X 10 £23.00
5.25" BULK-UNBRANDED X 25 £10.45
5.25" BULK-UNBRANDED X 50 £17.40

DISC STORAGE
AMS 10 (AMSTRAD BRAND) holds 10 £7.00
AMS30L (AMSTRAD BRAND) holds 30/21 £11.00
OS40L 3" 7.5" LOCKABLE £8.50
DS50L 5.25" (HOLDS 50) LOCKABLE £8.50
DS100L 5.25" (HOLDS 100) LOCKABLE £10.20

PRINTER RIBBONS
REFRESH! - BLACK REINKING SPRAY £7.80
Extends fabric ribbon life - will re-link up to 3D ribbons!!!

EXCELLENT VALUE COMPATIBLE RIBBONS:
PCW 8256 Fabric (14m length) x 2 £6.51
PCW 8256 Carbon Multistrike x 2 £6.51
PCW 9512 Carbon Multistrike x 2 £6.00
PCW 9512 New Fabric type x 2 £6.00
AMSTRAD BRANDED PRINTER RIBBONS
PCW8256 Fabric or Carbon MS x2 £13.03
PCW9512 Carbon Multistrike x2 £13.03

COLOUR RIBBONS
PCW 8000 SERIES FABRIC:
GREEN / RED / BLUE / BROWN / YELLOW / PURPLE / MAGENTA or CYAN
Any Two £11.80
Any Five £27.60
Any Ten £49.00
* MANY OTHER RIBBON TYPES AVAILABLE *

WE SUPPLY EXACTLY WHAT YOU ORDER
PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WHAT YOU ARE ORDERING IS GOING TO BE RIGHT FOR YOU! WE DO NOT SELL ON APPROVAL!!

COMPUTER PAPER

11" x 9.5" Continuous:-
SP/05 1 ply plain - 500 sheets £7.80
SP/10 1 ply plain - 1000 sheets £11.30
SP/20 1 ply plain - 2000 sheets £15.60
DP/05 2 ply plain - 500 sheets £15.60
DP/10 2 ply plain - 1000 sheets £24.30
11" x 14.5" Continuous:-
1 ply plain - 500 sheets £9.00
1 ply plain - 1000 sheets £10.75
1 ply plain - 2000 sheets £22.50
A4 - (TRUE A4) 80 gsm - Continuous:-
500 x Plain white/micro perf. £12.90
1000 x Plain white/micro perf. £19.95
2000 x Plain white/micro perf. £33.50
A4 - (TRUE A4) - Single Sheets:-
Plain White - 500 sheets £7.25
Plain White - 1000 sheets £13.75
LABELS - WITH SPROCKET HOLES:-
ONE WIDE 3 1/2" x 1 7/16" - 500 £7.25
ONE WIDE 3 1/2" x 1 7/16" - 1000 £13.75
ONE WIDE 3 1/2" x 1 7/16" - 2000 £22.50
ONE WIDE 3 1/2" x 1 7/16" - 4000 £42.50

NOT ONLY BUT ALSO!

CONTACT US FOR DICTATING MACHINES, TELEPHONES, TYPEWRITERS, SHREDDERS, PHOTOCOPIERS, COMPUTER FURNITURE, VIDEO RECORDERS, FAX MACHINES, SATELLITE DISHES, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, AND OFFICE SUPPLIES OF ALL TYPES

SOFTWARE

THE COMPOSERS PEN ONLY £56.00
Mini Office Pro.Plus - not 8256 £29.00
Mini Office Pro - suits all PCWs £25.87

New out from FUTURE PUBLISHING - The "8000 PLUS COLLECTION"
The Most Comprehensive Compilation of Amstrad PCW Hints, Tips, Shortcuts and Useful Programs Ever Published. Total of 1 book + disc = £6.90 all inc

WORDPROCESSORS

PROTEXT - THE FULL SYSTEM £33.00
PRODATA - Protexts' new database £47.45
PRO-EASE - needs Protext! £15.00
Flipper 2 Plus - not for PCW8256 £26.00
Locoscript II £18.95
Locoscript II - Locoscript II & Spell £27.00
Locoscript II £15.20
Locoscript - state which PCW used £24.20
Locoscript II £24.20
Locoscript II (3 fonts) £11.99
TAS-PRINT 8000 £10.00
TAS-SIGN 8000 £22.00
OIGITA 11 TYPE typewriter emulator £24.15
M.A.S.S. Easy Labeler! £21.00

SPREADSHEETS
Supercalc II (going up soon!) P.O.A.
Cracker II Turbo £34.75
Rotator: for sideways printing! £20.00

DATABASES
Masterfile 8000 - best general use £28.00
dBase II - the 'do all' database £47.00

ACCOUNTS
If you are unsure which package you need for your business please phone and we will describe the various packages in clear jargonless terms - but leave you to decide.

D.R.S. - Total Accounting £68.00
See the reviews & decide for yourself!
Money Manager PCW (NEW OUT!) £28.25
Meridian Stockmarket £22.00

CORNIX
Simple Accounts II - PCW £69.00
Job Estimating v2 £60.00
Product Costing v2 £60.00

MICRO SIMPLEX
VAT made simple - A/Cs system £99.95
Micro Pub stock £99.95
COMPACT ACCOUNTS - NEW RANGE NEW PRICES

We use Compact for our own accounts system. The best there is on the PCW! DETAILS OF THE FULL RANGE & STATIONERY CAVALIER SOFTWARE

Inbusiness (integrated) £130.00
Simple Invoicing £30.39
Diner: RESTAURANT/TAKEAWAY A/Cs £52.13
Homeview: ESTATE AGENTS - program £169.95
Newsday: NEWSPAPER DEL. - program £52.13
Re-Chord: MUSIC LIBRARY - program £26.04
CAVALIER SOFTWARE: FULL RANGE AVAILABLE.
CAMSOFT ACCOUNTS: full range avail.
PSIL - Integrated Stock/Inv/Sales/Purch/Nom P.O.A.
PSPN - INT. Sales/Purch/Nom P.O.A.
PPAY - PAYROLL P.O.A.
PSTK (AND OTHER TITLES) P.O.A.
SAGE ACCOUNTS: full range available
Popular Accounts £57.80
Popular Accounts Plus £85.80
MAP ACCOUNTS: full range available
Integrated Accounts £89.80

DTP AND GRAPHICS

MICRO DESIGN II: fantastic - ONLY £36.00
MICRO DESIGN II: quality MOUSE £79.00

Slop Press, Mouse, Interface etc. £60.70
Slop Press software only £28.50
Oesklap Pub & Mouse £51.99
Master Paint £15.45
Master Scan £48.50
Master Pack £54.60
Microdraft (graphic design) £67.60

TRAINING

REELTIME
TOP QUALITY TRAINING COURSE ON DISC WITH INSTRUCTOR ON AUDIO TAPE

RT-Locoscript II - PCW8512 £29.99
RT-Locoscript II - PCW8256/8512 £29.99
RT-Locoscript II - PCW8256/8512 £29.99
RT-CP/M - use your computer! £29.99
RT-Supercalc II £29.99
RT-dBase II £29.99

IANYSYST
Crash course in typing - beginners £17.20
Two Fingers To Touch Typing £17.20

KOSMOS - LANGUAGE TUTORS
Choose from the French Mistress, The German Master, The Spanish Tutor, or The Italian Tutor each at only £13.75

APEX LANGUAGE TUTORS - state machine Business French £39.00
Business German £39.00
Business Spanish £39.00
(these tutors are aimed at getting you ready for 1992 - so no excuses now!)

REACH THE TOP WITH LCL - serious stuff!
LCL: Micro Maths 8-Adult £20.80
LCL: Micro English 8-Adult £20.90
* Buy both and get £4.00 off total!

SCHOOL SOFTWARE
Better Spelling - age 9-adult £13.99
Magic Maths - age 4-8 £13.99
Maths Mania - age 8-12 £13.99
Belle Maths - age 12-16 £13.99
Physics - Chemistry or Biology age 12-16 (each only) £16.00

EDUCATIONAL & FUN!
Animal, Mineral, Vegetable £11.99
World Wise £11.99
TOPOLOGIKA - other titles - see below:
Giantkiller (maths adv. 9-16 yrs) £12.85
Yes Chancellor I (UK Economy sim) £12.85

LEISURE

*****GET RICH QUICK - PERHAPS?*****
Pro-Punter (racing betting aid) £39.00
Pro-Pools (forecasting aid) £34.50

***** ADVENTURE GAMES *****
Corruption £17.30
Scapeghost!!! £13.90
Lancelot - 3 Adventures in One £13.40
Jinxler £17.30

*** THE PROFESSIONAL ADVENTURE WRITER ***
* WRITE YOUR OWN ADVENTURES! * £18.00
Time and Magic - 3 games £10.22

TOPOLOGIKA ADVENTURES
Achelon £12.80
Avon/Murdoc £15.20
Countdown to Doom £12.80
Kingdom of Hamil £12.80
Philosophers Quest! £12.80
Return to Ooom £12.80

*****SIMULATIONS*****
Heathrow Traffic Control + S.B. £12.80
PCW Challenge (4 games) £10.40
A.C.E. + JOYSTICK + INTERFACE £26.00
Tomahawk - Helicopter Combat!!! £13.90
Graham Gooches Test Cricket £13.80
Headcoach - American Football £12.20
World of Soccer £12.20

***** ACTION *****
Brian Cloughs Football Fortunes £10.00
Head Over Heels £10.20
Classic Collection I - (not 951 2) £12.20
Classic Collection II - (not 951 2) £12.20

*****TABLE GAMES*****
Bridge Player Galactica £19.60
Bridge Player 2000 £10.40
Colossus IV Bridge £12.00
Clock Chess 89 - very powerful £13.80
Colossus IV Chess £10.40
Trivial Pursuit £15.20
World of Snooker £11.80
Steve Davis Snooker £10.20
Classic Games 4 - 4 Board games £13.80

PLEASE NOTE THIS ADVERT CONSTITUTES JUST A TINY PART OF OUR RANGE OF PRODUCTS (see 'Not Only But Also' ABOVE. IF YOU DO NOT SEE WHAT YOU NEED HERE PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO TELEPHONE - NOW MULTIPLE TELEPHONE LINES!)

CALLERS WELCOME BUT STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT PLEASE

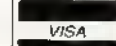
If you see anything we sell being sold cheaper elsewhere please phone us before you buy - Office open 9a.m. to 5p.m. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

Postage is FREE but you MUST ADD VAT

Export orders currently not taken. This advert constitutes an invitation to treat - not an offer. Prices etc. may change without notice - trading conditions available upon request
All trademarks ack. Cheques/P.O.'s payable to "W.B.B.S."

WEST OF BRITAIN BUSINESS SERVICES DEPT 5/4, CAPEL TOBI, FFAIRFACH, LLANDEILO, DYFED. SA19 6PR

TEL: (0558) 823782 SALES & 24 HOUR CREDIT CARD ORDERING
OR PLACE YOUR CREDIT CARD ORDER BY FAX 9am-10pm Mon-Fri. (0558) 823923
GOVT DEPTS / LOCAL & EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY ORDERS WELCOMED.



Unhappily we only received our model late on in the month, so for a more in-depth review, read next month's 8000 Plus.

Asked whether Kempston had plans for any further PCW releases in the near future, we were told, "We've got something bubbling along which we won't announce at the moment. We will keep you informed."

The new mouse comes packaged with two pieces of already popular software. These are, Jeeves, the PCW helpmate, and DataFax, the personal organiser program. All this will cost you £69.95 (plus VAT). If you have the software then Kempston will sell you the mouse alone for £45.95 (plus VAT). Finally, Kempston tell us that they have a bundled package of Micro Design II and the new Naksha/Kempston mouse for £99.95 (plus VAT). If you would like to contact Kempston, you should call the following number: 0234 855666.

And the mouse that squeaked

If you've been having trouble trapping an AMX mouse of late, it's no surprise. Richard Vanner, the Development Manager of Database Software, who are UK distributors of the versatile vermin told us, "We get our mice from AMS, who have let us down badly. The problem is a manufacturing one, which is going to take about three months to resolve."

AMS were unavailable for comment at the time of going to press. The release of the new Kempston mouse (see 'The mouse that roared') is, it seems, good news for some, and cold comfort for others...

Design of your life

Creative Technology, makers of the excellent Micro Design II desktop publishing package, have just

published the second edition of their quarterly newsletter, *The Microdesigner*. Along with this, came a press release in which they inform us of the following changes.

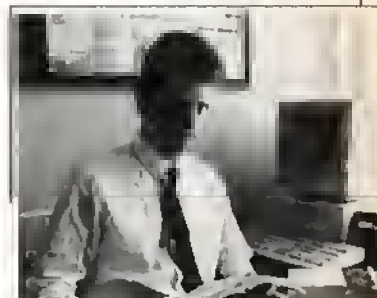
There is another collection of fonts now on the market. It costs £14.95 and contains typefaces for main body copy and large headlines. They also recommend the fonts available from HD Design, Exemplar Design and AC Booth Illustrations.

We are also told that Groundwork (see Ground control) can produce 'high-quality scanned images' for use with the PCW. If this is not enough, there is also news of laser-printing bureaux which have Creative's seal of approval. In fact there is so much to tell you that soon we hope to be talking to Creative Technology about Micro Design II and a whole range of other subjects. Of course this will be relayed to you in the magazine as soon as it happens. If you can't wait you might like to call

the company on 0889 567160 (the fax number is 0889 563548).

A vague on both your houses

The Software Imperative stable is to expand. Following the success of Flipper2, proprietor Andy Wilton is rumoured to be launching a new product in early May. Few details are available - except that although it is "not exactly" a



Andy Wilton of Software Imperative ... new product afoot?

CLUB

NEWS

Hampshire openers

No, not Greenwich and Richards (Barry that is - or is club news showing its years?) but the Hampshire PCW User Group. Ah ... Hampshire, home of Sir Percival Glyde. But it is also home to Chairperson Ray Lee, Membership Secretary Peter Bassett and Group secretary Paul Day.

We haven't heard much from Hampshire in the last few months and so were gratified to receive a rather smart-looking newsletter. It appears that the club has been re-vamped with a vengeance and 1990 looks like being a packed year.

Scheduled events are as follows:

Monday 2nd April is SuperCalc2 day.

Tuesday 1st May is a celebration of BASIC and CP/M

Wednesday 6th June is LocoMail Day

Thursday 5th July sees a LocoScript forum

Monday 6th August is a visit from the Money Manager

Along with this lot are planned various other question and answer sessions with the club's Brains Trust, a meeting on 24-pin printer installation and much more. They have even started to plan the Christmas meetings. This looks like some pretty in-depth organisation to us and for the membership fee of £10.00 per annum it can't be bad. So far the membership of the club stands at 32 and we can only hope that more people see fit to join in the near future.

If you would like to find out more about the club, you should try and contact the membership secretary Peter Bassett at the following address: 27 Fellows Road, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 6NU

Is there anybody out there?

Several requests have been made to us via fax, mail, carrier pigeon and 'phone. All of them related to parts of the country which, it appears, do not have PCW clubs. This cannot be allowed and so we now present the 8000 Plus guide to the unknown world ... are there any organisations in or near the following areas:

Redhill in Surrey.

Aberdare in Wales

Nuneaton

Scotland - highlands, lowlands, midlothian or even the islands?

In fact are there any clubs of which we have not been made aware? Even better still, would you like to start a club but don't know how to get into contact with other people? If so, please write to Club News at the following address: Club News, 8000 Plus, Beauford Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2AP. Please only contact us if you run a club or wish to begin one. For those of you who wish to join clubs, we hope to be publishing a guide to available organisations in the very near future.

Make a wish

It is a sparse month indeed which sees no mention of HAG, (The Heretford Amstrad User Group). So, what has been happening down (or up or across depending on where you live) there?

David Rose tells us that all this vile weather made attending the most recent HAG meeting a task fit for the SAS. However, rain lashed and wind blown though they were, the HAG members reached the appointed place at the

appointed hour. In fact one member endured such blustering and drenching in order to be there that David Rose of the club deemed it necessary to award the first HAG medal for gallantry. So, to Bob Ellis goes the HMG.

The meeting which everyone was trying so hard to attend saw a talk on CP/M - this came with a free-printed tutorial and examples disc. The talk was so successful that it has been decided to set aside half an hour a month to deal with one area of CP/M.

Finally, it's time for all the rest of us to leap out from behind the sofas, cupboards and tables, blow the long-squeaky things and yell "Happy birthday!" Because HAG is one year old. Many happy returns. If you would like to party (while being delightfully informed) you should phone David Rose on 0432 267123.

The world is their oyster

Gerry Austin of PCW World User Group writes to tell us that membership has risen to 600. PCW World is unlike any other club in that it does not meet in one place, in fact it does not meet at all. It is rather an organisation which is able to provide its members with cheap discs, plastic disc cases and now a disc translation service.

This service will translate from several different formats such as MSDOS, BBC, and 200 CP/M formats. The cost of this is £3.95 to non-members and £2.95 to members (plus the cost of a disc and post and packing).

If you would like to find out more about the club you should contact Gerry Austin on 0384 66269

word processor, the product is "something which word processor users will find very useful", Mr Wilton described the project as a "writer's tool".

As well as working to complete the new release, Software Imperative are acting as consultants on the de-bugging of Mini Office Professional Plus from Database.

Chris Payne of Database commented on the (year) late release of Mini Office Plus, "Our mistake was to believe the programmer. They always tell you that they'll have something finished tomorrow, but we have learnt to our cost that they can be wrong".

If you purchased the original version, which Chris Payne admits was beset by "inconsistencies and inconveniences", Database suggest that either you continue waiting, or, that you obtain a full refund - but only if you bought your copy direct from the company. Alternatively, they will replace the original with a new Mini Office Professional (£39.95) minus spellchecker and thesaurus, but plus a £10 voucher to purchase the bug-free version when ready.

Database Software are on 0625 878888. Software Imperative's phone number is 0225 425315 (although the new project will be keeping them very busy indeed!)

The price-hiker's guide

As we said in December, Amstrad's rather less than brilliant financial showing over 1989 didn't, as some people had suggested, mean the end of the company. Of course, we were quite correct.

Amstrad have recently announced that £114 million worth of debts had been written off and their share price has risen accordingly. The bad news, for those people who don't already have a PCW, is that they are increasing the price of 8000 series PCWs by £30. The 9512 will not be affected. Just why they are doing this is anybody's guess ... we think it's because the machines are so popular that people will keep on buying them no matter what.

Protect and survive

What happens when your PCW breaks down? Many PCW owners still seem to be unaware that they have a one year warranty on their machines. This means that if anything does go awry, Dictaphone Ltd should come storming around to your home. This is the company



Mike Graham, a wiseman at Wisemans?

who hold the maintenance agreement with Amstrad.

But what then happens if, after the free year, you don't take out insurance? Up until now, very little, except for phone calls to Amstrad, waiting for parts or hunting around for a shop who can supply the goods ... but not the service.

Well, good news is upon us. A company called Wiseman's PLC, "a company with over 25 years experience in insurance and extended warranties" in concert with the Amstrad Professional User Group have let loose a scheme called Restart, an extended warranty which begins where the Dictaphone coverage finishes.

There are several Restart options which all fall into two camps. Either 'Back to base' - which entails you sending the faulty machine to the company - or 'On-Site'. As an idea of cost, a 3 year Return to Base costs £48 while a five-year, On-Site would come in at £249.

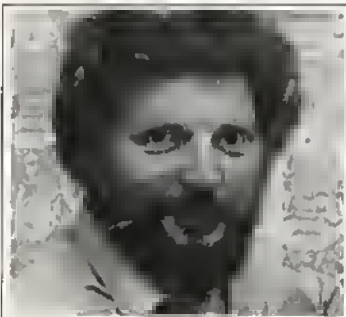
Because Restart falls under insurance services, there is no VAT chargeable. Prices also include labour and parts.

If you would like some in-depth information on Restart you should call 0784 252 548.

Ground control

John Hunt and Penny Hitchin are two lucky people; not only do they live in the Lake District but they also have an interesting, and healthy business. Groundwork is the name of the business which covers a great many activities.

One of these is called Into Print and, as the name suggests, it is



John Hunt of Groundwork, lakeland laser printing

concerned with getting your work out of your PCW and into book form. They told us that, "Our special interest in the PCW is seen as rather eccentric by some people ... According to their logic, any writer or would-be publisher who takes themselves seriously buys an Apple (Macintosh!) We're not sure. The PCW owners we've talked to seem intelligent, serious people who see their computer as a working tool rather than a toy or a status symbol. Our aim is to provide a link between the PCW and professional-standard publishing."

They have already published a few works and while doing that they realised that many people actually wanted training as well as publishing. Bear in mind that they steer away from publishing works of fiction. So, with this in mind they also produce a wide range of training materials and also run on-site courses. These take place in the Wordsworths' favourite place in the world. We hope to be taking a much more detailed look at Groundwork in the near future but if you would like to find out about any of the services provided by the company you should speak to the affable partnership of John Hunt and Penny Hitchin on 05395 33600.

They're off! in the Abu Dhabi

The PCW gets all over the place and no mistake. News just in is that Computer Training Centres (UK) Ltd have set up a training centre in the Middle East. The company tell us that they have contacts in Somalia,



CTC train anytime, any place, anywhere.

Oman, Yemen, Dubai and Indonesia. The Joint Venture is called International Trading Centres or ITC.

CTC also have offices in this country and can offer PCW training in such packages as Micro Design II. Their latest offer is for a weekend in Bournemouth, this entails one day's training, plus accommodation and food for £150.

They are looking for franchising agreements in the country. To get the low-down on training or franchising, you can call CTC (UK) Ltd on 0202 299676.

SNIPPETS

Not Stephen King at all

Last month's Demon writer article by Chris Westwood (author of A Light In the Black - Kestrel Publishers) was a little zealously sub-edited. We would like to make it clear that although Peter Straub and Stephen King have written a book together they are not the same person. We would like to make it even more clear that Chris Westwood never said that they were the same person ... that was our fault. So many apologies to Chris for that.

Locomotivski

Locomotive Software have taken LocoScript and family to Moscow for a huge trade fair - Comtek 90. This actually runs from March 6th-12th if you want to visit. The company have taken Cyrillic fonts and such like and will be in good company since Amstrad are also going to be there.

Локо Скрипт

What next? LocoSummit or LocoSalt? Maybe.

The star of the show

Not happy with simply appearing with Russ Abbot, Trevor Eve and Bleak Eyes (by the way, the PCW in the last of these was not used by Nigel Planer - that was a Mac - but was the one on the secretary's desk in the model agency!), the PCW has now appeared in the She advert, Eastenders and, as pointed out by N S Ruddock, with Mel Smith in Colin's Sandwich. Any more sightings on stage or screen? Please let us know.

Saints alive!!

When you read this month's genealogy feature on pages 10, 11 and 12 you will probably wonder exactly what the link is, on the last page, between the Church of the Latter Day Saints - otherwise known as the Mormons - and parish registers. Well, the Mormons have a theory - that of vicarious baptism (or baptism of the dead). In order to baptise the souls of those departed, they need to be able to fully ascertain the identity of the individual concerned; hence their preoccupation with parish registers, bishops' transcripts and other forms of genealogical reference.

Just in!

The new ABC figure for the magazine is 29,688 - a 4% year on year increase on last year's.

**Professional
GRAPHIC DESIGN & DESKTOP PUBLISHING
for the AMSTRAD PCW series**

MICRO

Design 2



"An easy to use package capable of impressive results at an accessible price" - The Guardian

EXTRA FONTS DISCS - No 1

Baghdad Calligraphica celtic CURVERY NIBLICK
Outtrigger Schwabacher Sherwood ... & many more

MicroDesign 2..... £59.95
with **FREE** Extra Fonts (RRP £69.95)
Disc No 1 only from us!

Extra Fonts Discs ... £14.95
each



All prices include VAT and P&P

- No 2



Bolden Rondo
Ελαφεια Helvetica
Helvoutica
SCRIBBLE TABLET
at various point sizes



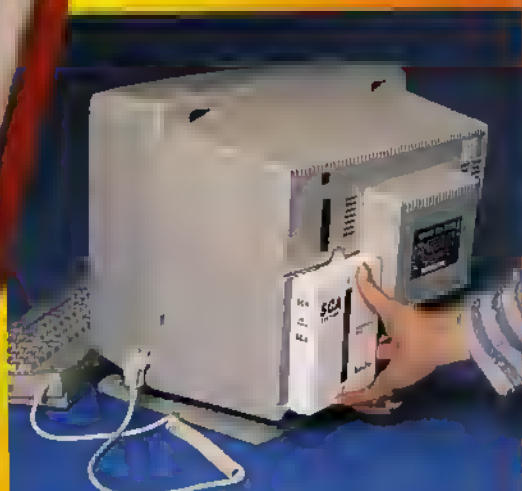
10 Park Street
Uttoxeter
Staffs
ST14 7AG
Tel 0889 567160
Fax 0889 563548

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

This advert was designed, typeset and printed AT THIS SCALE using an Amstrad PCW8512, MicroDesign 2, and an HP DeskJet Plus printer.

**NEED MORE MEMORY?
Then plug in a RAMPAC**

- Compatible with all Amstrad PCW's simply plugs into the expansion port.
- Adds 512k of RAM, instantly!
- Through connector allows continued use of other peripherals.
- Tested Locoscript compatible by Locomotive Software.
- Only £119.00 + VAT.
Total £136.85. Postage free.



SCA Systems Ltd., 61 Ferringham Lane, Ferring,
West Sussex BN12 5LW. Tel: 0903 700288.

AVAILABLE NOW!

PEDIGREE CHUMS

Sharon Bradley and a couple of 8000 Plus readers harvest the fruits of their family trees with a little help from their PCWs

Computers and genealogy

The Society of Genealogists produce a quarterly 48-page magazine entitled *Computers in Genealogy*. An annual subscription to the magazine will cost Society members £8 and non-members £9.50. Editor Eric Probert does welcome unsolicited articles providing the subject matter is relevant. For back issues or further information, call the Society on 01 251 8799.

Stumbling, inadvertently or otherwise, across information that has a direct bearing on your long-deceased relatives usually provokes one of two reactions: you either permanently assign to some forgotten corner of the house the musty 'photo albums and other mildewed relics of a bygone age, clutching at the principle that Ignorance must be bliss – or you start scavenging, intent on unearthing the long-buried traces of a personal heritage that has, quietly behind the wings, determined everything about you.

If you've decided on the latter course of action, don't expect it always to be easy. There might be a lot of talking to people to get through, a lot of pouring over old family

photographs and, almost certainly, a lot of hanging around in cold, draughty corridors not getting anywhere very quickly.

Having said that, bringing the benefits of modern computerisation to bear on a subject that, by its very nature, is so steeped in history might provide the answer. And as we are continually being reminded here on 8000 Plus, no subject seems too traditional for the PCW to tackle.

The strong presence of PCWs throughout organised family history societies would seem to bear ample witness to the fact that the PCW and genealogy make a successful partnership. Let's take a look at the programs available for the PCW-owning family historian and talk to the people who use them.

INDEXER

£20 ● David Computer Software ● 061 4394841

Indexer is not entirely sure what it is. Although it comes from the same stable as Genny (see right) it is not strictly a genealogical program. Rather, it is a database. The first point you should note is that when running Indexer from BASIC, all the files on your M: drive are automatically erased – with no warning. With this in mind it is probably best to run it straight from a start of day disc.

That aside, Indexer is no mean program. It will allow you to make use of both drives if your PCW has that capability and is remarkably flexible for a 25k Mallard BASIC program.

Unlike many other databases for the PCW, the installation process with this program is a piece of cake (or even brioche). There is none of the changing discs left, right and centre, creating index-discs, data-discs or the rest of the rigmarole which normally accompanies such packages. You simply type BASIC at the A> prompt and once in BASIC you RUN "INDEXER.DCS" (make sure to use the .DCS suffix as Mallard won't recognise it as a compatible file otherwise). Once you've done this, you will find yourself facing the main menu.

This menu greets you with several options. The first one you will need to use is [N]ew file. The maximum file capacity for Indexer is as follows: 360,000 characters on a machine with 512k of memory, 112,000 on the 8256. You have to make four decisions before actually entering data into your new file. Firstly, what you will call it.

Indexer assumes a filename suffix of .CEN (presumably for Census as the packing proudly proclaims that it is used for the East Sussex Census Indexes (sic)). You are then prompted for a File Title. This can be up to 255 characters in length and acts as a reminder as to just what you have in the file.

Next you are asked for a maximum record length. This can be up to 128 characters in length. Lastly you are given the option of defining tabs. A problem occurs here. Say you've chosen to use six tabs (tab 1 is assumed to be in position 1) and while defining them you make a mistake and get an Invalid position ... well, there seems to be no way, other than by re-booting (switching off and on again), to escape from the tab menu.

Family fer-youd

After making these few definitions you are ready to enter the data. This all goes in upper case and is, technically speaking, easy-peasy. Simply type in the details – Name, dates, children, hobbies, in fact anything you desire – save the file and you're ready to make use of the comprehensive sort and print facilities.

One handy feature with Indexer is its ability to Import ASCII files from other software such as LocoScript or Protext. Remember when doing this to save your files with that old .CEN suffix otherwise Indexer will chuck it back at you.

All in all, Indexer is a handy database, a little overpriced. It's sorting functions are quick and detailed even if the manual is none too keen on telling you how to use them (its slimmer than Christie Brinkley on a four day fast!).

Tim Smith

INDEXER

Pluses

- ▲ Excellent sort and print facilities
- ▲ Easy to use
- ▲ Imports ASCII files

Minuses

- ▼ Erases M: drive without warning
- ▼ Poor manual

EASE OF USE

4/5

DOCUMENTATION

2/5

FEATURES

3/5

PERFORMANCE

3/5

8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT 12/20

REVIEW FILE *

Q/B scrolls forwards/back, +SHIFT for fast (skips 9/10), or #ref or E to exit

```

1 SURNAME: BUREAU
2 FIRST NAME(S): MATTHEW ULRICH
3 BORN: 1864
4 MARRIED: 1885
5 DIED: 1917
6 SPOUSE: BERNICE BLANCHFLOWER
7 CHILDREN(1): BARRYMORE PHILBERT
8 CHILDREN(2): SCHEM HALL BRAINWALT
9 CHILDREN(3): ALEXANDRA MATTHEW ULRICH
10 CHILDREN(4): CUTHBERT MORBERT ALBERT
11 CHILDREN(5): CHARLTON HURST MOORE PETERS
12 CHILDREN(6): CHARLTON HURST MOORE PETERS

```

Simple, straight-forward and easy to enter; part of a simple Indexer file

FORMAT PRINTOUT *

```

Option Current setting
Typeface: Pica/Elite/Proportional/Condensed Pica
Orientation: Upright
Standard/Enlarged Standard
Letter/Draft quality Draft
Double/Single strike Single
Standard/Emphasised Standard
Margin: number of characters 0
Lines per inch: 6/8/10/12 6
Paper: Single Sheet/continuous Continuous
Page end gap, lines 3
Print sample of style selected
Exit FORMAT PRINTOUT

```

Indexer's comprehensive Print menu; two typefaces and a whole load of ways to use them

Looking back with LocoScript



Genealogy is not always the easiest of hobbies to pursue, and Philip Jackson from Saltford in Avon would be the first person to agree. 'Sitting inside cold church vestries hour after hour pouring over old parish registers can be a very sobering experience,' he laughs. So what makes him continue with it all? 'The sheer determination of finishing a project,' he replies, 'once you've imposed your own target.'

Missing ancestors

Those of you who remember the review 8000 Plus carried way back in October 1987 of the genealogy program for the PCW called Personal Ancestral File may be wondering why we have not included it in this software round-up. The answer is, we're afraid, quite simple. Much to our surprise – and a good many other people's – Kinloch have stopped producing PCW versions of this program. Their reason? 'We have changed our area of operation to concentrate exclusively on IBM-computer case manufacturing,' said proprietor Nigel Crossley.

Genealogists unite

For more information about genealogy in general, contact The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA (telephone 01 251 8799). In return for paying an annual membership fee of £32.50 (if you live within 25 miles of Trafalgar Square) or £23.50 (if you don't), you have unlimited access to one of the biggest collection of parish registers and the International Genealogical Index Worldwide which has, on index, 85 million baptisms and marriages. As well as laying on regular meetings and lectures, the Society will also be able to provide you with a contact for your local family history society.

It was the birth of his son in 1951 which initially triggered Philip's interest in his family history. And although the interest 'lay fallow', as he puts it, for a considerable period of time – about thirty years – he did manage to secure a lot of information about the past from his immediate relatives.

It was precisely because Philip was able to collate so many details about his ancestors in those early years that he rather eschewed the notion of committing it all to modern computer software at a later date. And although he is the proud owner of a PCW, he admits that he bought it to help him with genealogy in general rather than with his specific family history. 'Having spent so much time compiling manual charts, I just couldn't see the value to be gained from sitting down and typing it all into a computer.'

Little parisher

So why did he buy a PCW in the first place and what exactly does he use it for? Most of the time that he devotes these days to genealogy is taken up with that most valuable source of information, parish registers. Indexing them can be a very protracted, not to mention tedious, affair without the advantage of computerised help. 'I have to confess that I wasn't that impressed with the CPC, but when I first saw the PCW, I knew it was the one.'

Any genealogist will tell you that there always comes a point at which you will have to look at parish registers. Someone, consequently, has to impose some sort of intelligible order on them. Philip realised that putting together alphabetically-sorted indices manually was a complete non-starter. And so, using DCS's Indexer, Philip completed an alphabetic ordering of his antecedents' parish register (Guisley in Yorkshire) from 1721 to 1780. He is currently bringing to a close an alphabetic indexing of the same register from 1780 to 1812.

'And after that,' adds Philip, 'I intend to work through to 1857, which is when they brought in National Registration.' But if you think this is the work of a few weeks, you would be quite mistaken. 'I've set myself,' says Philip, 'a ten-year project at the end of which I will have arrived at 1857. After that I want to make a start on the non-conformist registers up until 1812. You see, the parish register

system did not begin properly until the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and since the church represented the local government of the day, everything was recorded on them – unless, of course, you were a Quaker or a Jew.'

Initially, Philip took the chronologically-arranged Guisley parish registers from a microfilm kept by the Whitchurch Mormon Church and typed them painstakingly into Indexer. Once the program had carried out an alphabetic sort on the data, it was a simple matter to import it into LocoScript for any further editing. Having re-inserted it back into Indexer, the register had then to be compared with the original Yorkshire register.

What's in a name?

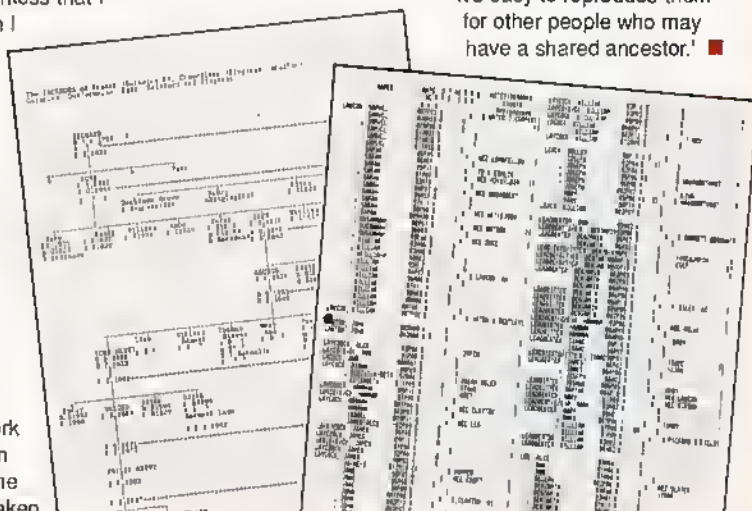
'Though in theory a copy of the original,' points out Philip, 'there turned out to be an awful lot of differences between the two versions. Put two pieces of paper side by side and invariably you will find yourself faced with two different answers. There proved to be a discrepancy between 29 per cent of the compared entries, four per cent of which were quite serious. By that, we mean completely different names having been entered, not just your usual spelling differences.'

Laborious though it may sound, it is precisely this sort of hard graft that provides fellow family historians with invaluable help in the plotting of their respective family trees. 'It's not just a question of doing it, but controlling it as well. I was even able to help one lady in Canada track down three previously-missing generations,' grins Philip.

Philip also uses a combination of his PCW and LocoScript 1 to produce what he calls indexed drop-line charts of his own family history. As he points out, 'It beats carrying a roll of wall-paper around in my pocket to show my full pedigree. The first page shows the direct male line with arrows pointing to the right indicating the female lines on marriage. By turning the appropriate number of pages – this is indicated by the position the relevant female arrow occupies starting from the top right hand corner of the page – the relevant pedigree can be followed very easily.'

'There's no denying,' says Philip, 'that setting up these charts can be very fiddly, especially where someone has produced a lot of children. But once they have been set up,

it's easy to reproduce them for other people who may have a shared ancestor.' ■



Philip's LocoScript-generated drop-line charts. He tends to sketch out a rough tree on paper before beginning; then he sets LocoScript on half-line spacing. Pressing [EXTRA] and the [J] keys simultaneously, meanwhile, produces the drop-line.

A typical page from Philip's alphabetically-indexed Guisley parish register. 'The beauty of Indexer is that it manages to compact information so well.' Combine that feature with powerful search and sort facilities and it's a winner for the family historian.'

You could choose to write your music using pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers - keeping plenty of Tippex and spare manuscript paper handy,



or you could use

The Composer's Pen



"Is there a kind of wordprocessor for music that lets me type in music, and then print it out? Can I type in any notes I want, as many staves as I need, in any key I wish? Does it print text for musical directions and for song writing? Can I change my mind and correct mistakes? Can I move sections of music around from one instrument to another? Will it print out the full score AND selected staves or parts? Will it transpose for me? Will it vertically align notes on different staves? Even when I use complicated cross rhythms in different parts? Is it easy to use? Will my daughter be able to use it for her music studies? Can I run it on my Amstrad PCW? Does this mean I will never have to pay to get my parts written out again? Are hundreds of composers, arrangers, copyists, choir-masters, bandleaders, teachers, students, music publishers, jazz bands, brass bands and pipe bands, already relying on The Composer's Pen? Does it take the drudgery out of what should be a creative act?

**QUITE SIMPLY
YES!**

The message is simple - if you need to put dots on paper, you need The Composer's Pen.

The Composer's Pen II (program only)
£74.75 (excl. VAT)

The Composer's Pen 24 for 24-pin printers
£89.95 (excl. VAT)

The Composer's Pen II System, complete with computer
£499 (excl. VAT)

Write for details
(no stamp needed)
Composit Software
Dept. 84
FREEPOST
10 Leasowe Green
Lightmoor Telford
TF4 3BR

Telephone
Orders
welcome:
0952 595436



Cheques payable to Composit Software

MAKING THE RULES

Part two of Rob Ainsley's tutorial shows you how to set up formats in your favourite database and brings you a step closer to mastering Masterfile

So you've spent the last month entering all those details into a Masterfile database — in this case a list of your pig breeder club members. You've done the hard work and can now start to enjoy playing around with Masterfile's facilities.

Load your file as usual: run up Masterfile by typing **MF8000** at the A> prompt, press L (for 'Load/Save') when the first menu appears, then change drive if you have an 8512 by pressing [D] then [B]. [L] loads a file; press this and then type **MEMBERS** or whatever name you gave your file.

The main menu returns to the screen; press [D] and the file is displayed, record by record. The first one that shows is the first one alphabetically by surname, assuming you entered 'Name' initially when setting up the database, and used the > character in the names to tell Masterfile where the surname begins.

The problem with the current way the data is displayed is that you only get one name at a time. In some circumstances, you might require a complete name and address list, which could be printed out and used for reference purposes.

The secret of Masterfile's power lies in its formats. These are your ways of displaying any or all of the items of information in each name and address record, and you can have up to ten. It's rather like designing a form, and deciding what information must be put where; how many lines you want to put for the address, how big a box to leave for the pig breeds and so on.

Examples of the sort of formats you might have are shown in the screen shots on these pages. Each uses the same set of information — your membership details — but displays them in a different way.

Until now you've only used 'Format 0' (as you'll see from the bottom right hand corner). This is the straightforward 'card index' format that Masterfile starts you up with; one set of details to a screen listed out line by line. Now you'll define additional formats like those above, respectively called **Format 1** and **Format 2**.

Get to the main menu (pressing [X] if necessary) and press [F] for 'format maintenance'. You want to start a new format, so press [N] for 'new format' from the next menu. 'Give format reference' means 'which number format are you defining or about to edit?'; '1' is the appropriate response.

The next question, 'Give pixels per line' is a coded way of asking you how widely spaced you want each line to be on screen (printed spacing is unaffected). If you give 8, or just press [ENTER], your lines have no blank space between them; 15 would give almost a full blank line between each; 12 half a blank line, and so on. Let's say you go for the minimum option and just press [ENTER].

In Xcess

The next screen is a bit confusing the first time. There's a long thin rectangle showing the position where the first record will go, together with the available space for whatever information you want to pull out of each name-and-address record. You will also see a panel telling you how many lines you currently have available for heading text (2), information from each record (1), and also how many name-and-address records will fit onto one screen (26).

All we want for **Format 1** is one name and address to a line, so this setup suits us fine. Press [ENTER] to confirm.

From the next menu we want to insert an element, the first one being the name. So press [I]; you're now asked what sort of thing you want to insert. You want 'record data' (i.e. information

from the name-and-address records) so press [D]. To 'external data?' reply with [N]; this refers to pulling in information from a different file, and need not be of concern now.

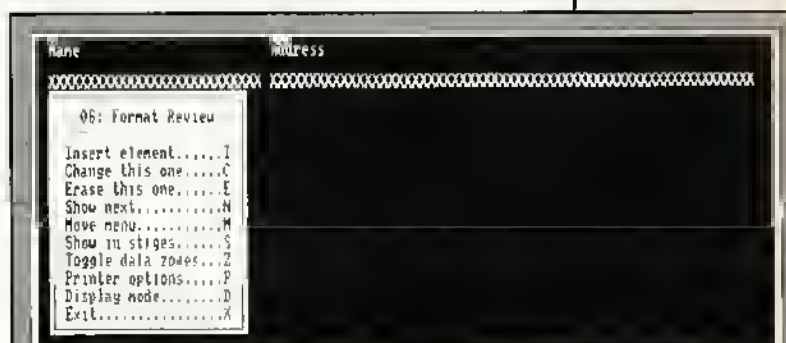
When asked 'Give data number', press [1][ENTER] — this is the number associated with the Name, as you can see from the reminder helpfully posted at the top.

You now see a bunch of Xs on the screen and a menu. This will show Masterfile the position and size

Format frets

If Masterfile's menus get in the way when setting up a format, take [M] from the 'Format review' menu to move them elsewhere on screen.

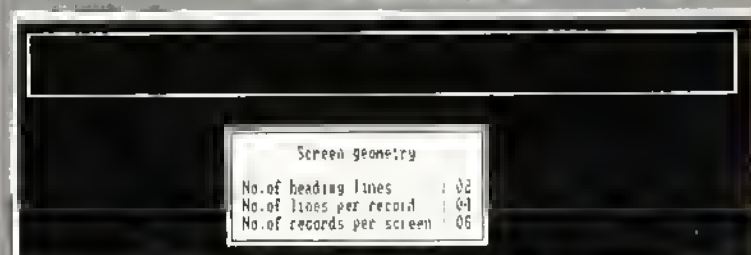
Don't worry if the boxes of XXXXXs you move around appear to wipe out any other boxes on their travels. It does not affect the format.



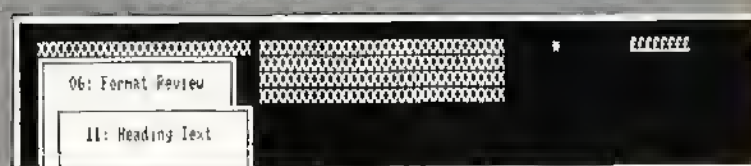
The Masterfile format — that simple name-and-address list



And the result on screen when displayed



Setting the size of the record format for the sub and bread information



Putting that '1' into place to mark where the heading text will go

Still to come...

The month after will deal with the more exotic functions: fancy formats with boxes and panels, exporting and importing data to and from LocoScript, calculations etc.

Now you want to insert the address. [X] back to the 'Format review' menu and press [I] again to Insert a new element. Again, choose [D] for 'record data' and give [N] as it's not external data. Position and size the Xs to show the 'slot' for the address as with the name.

To finish off, you can add some headings. At the 'Format review' menu take [I] for 'insert element' but next give

Now to set up that second format. [X] to the main menu and set up a Format 2 as above. This time, at the '**screen geometry**' bit, where you have that rectangle and can set up how much space the information is to take up, make the rectangle rather bigger. You do this by using the cursors: sideways ones to make it deeper or shallower, up and down ones to move the box up or down.

If you want to change something – the size of a box for example – then select it ([F] from the main menu, then [V] for 'View/Alter') and get to the 'Format review' menu. Pressing [N] selects each entry in turn – it flashes as you press [N] and the one currently selected is shown at the bottom of the screen. [C] then allows you to change it.

The new formats you've defined are saved when you save the file at the end.



Did you know that LocoScript 2 is not only faster and easier to use, but also...

- Produces better looking printing with improved shapes on the built-in matrix printer
- Lets you use an alternative printer to print your documents – choose from over 300
- Supports all European languages including Russian and Greek - even Ancient Greek!
- Provides over 100 scientific, mathematical or special symbols
- Is the first step to adding other LocoScript programs such as LocoFile, LocoMail and LocoSpell
- Lets you format and copy discs without using CP/M
- Adds a range of different typefaces from handwriting styles to modern fonts for business use.
- Adds a wider choice of layout features
- Gives more options for Find and Exchange
- The Save and Continue option returns you back to your original place in your document
- Prints multiple copies of your document
- Offers a wide choice of paper types to print your documents - for example: A4, A5, 11" continuous or 3" labels.
- Will convert your existing LocoScript documents as you need them
- Has a completely revised user guide

LocoScript 2 is the powerful, more versatile successor to the LocoScript supplied with the PCW 8256/8512. For only £24.95 you'll get more from your PCW than ever before

Giving you more for your PCW.



Please send me the following:

LocoScript 2 £24.95 ☐
LocoScript 2 with LocoSpell £34.90 ☐

Please send me details of the LocoScript 2 family ☐

Name

Address

Postcode

☐ I enclose a cheque for Total £.....

☐ Please charge my Access/Visa card

EXP Date

Signed

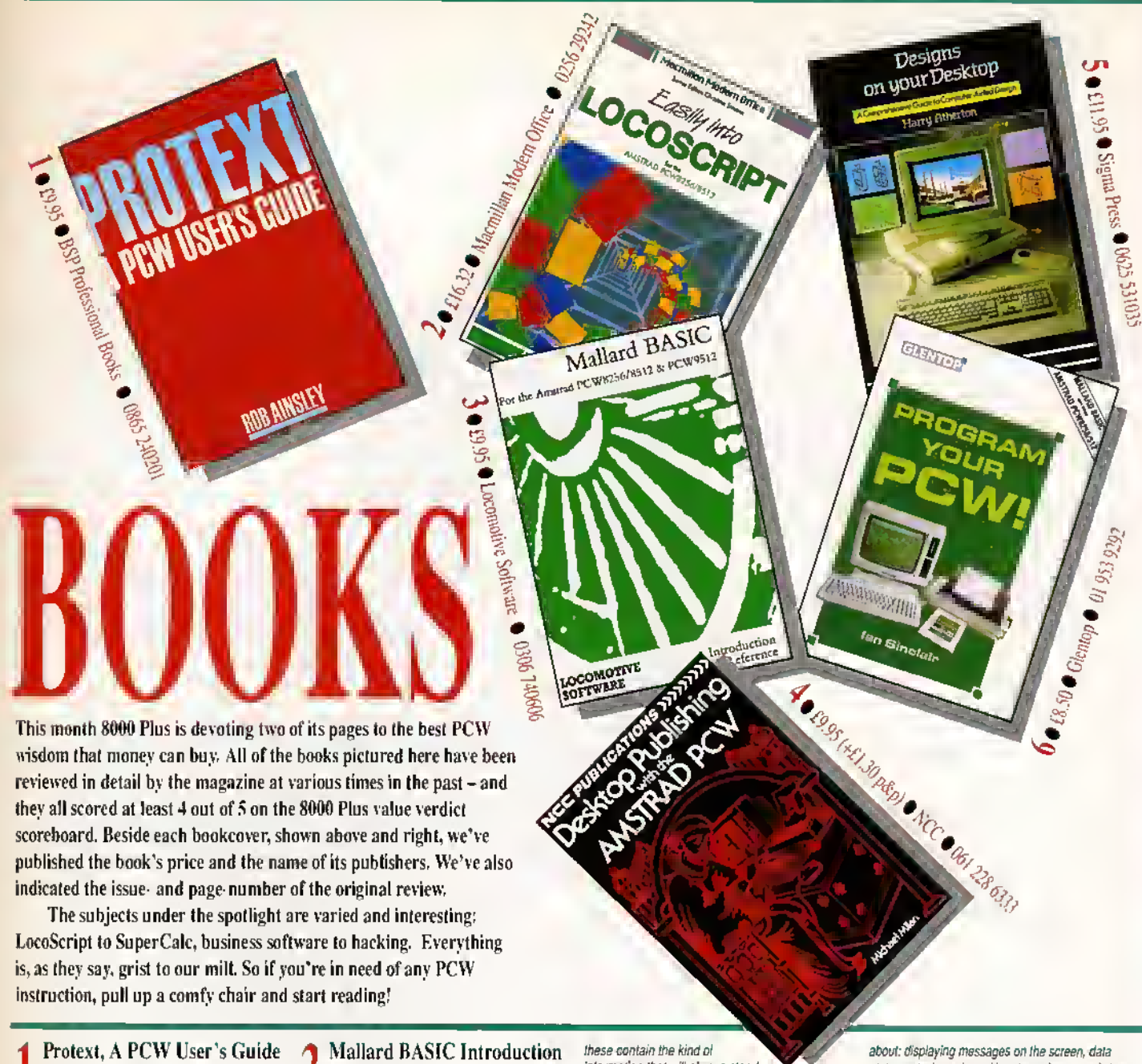
Send to Katy Buchan at:



**LOCOMOTIVE
SOFTWARE**
Dorking,
Surrey, RH4 1YL

Note: All prices include VAT and UK postage

TEL 0306 740606



BOOKS

This month 8000 Plus is devoting two of its pages to the best PCW wisdom that money can buy. All of the books pictured here have been reviewed in detail by the magazine at various times in the past – and they all scored at least 4 out of 5 on the 8000 Plus value verdict scoreboard. Beside each bookcover, shown above and right, we've published the book's price and the name of its publishers. We've also indicated the issue- and page-number of the original review.

The subjects under the spotlight are varied and interesting: LocoScript to SuperCalc, business software to hacking. Everything is, as they say, grist to our mill. So if you're in need of any PCW instruction, pull up a comfy chair and start reading!

1 Protext, A PCW User's Guide by Rob Ainsley (Issue 36, p39)

If you've only ever used LocoScript, but are no longer entirely happy with it, this one will definitely be worth a read. It is an all-embracing beginner's course in Protext which is intent, among other things, on making the conversion from LocoScript as painless as possible. The book is not just a long catalogue of Protext's many features; instead, Ainsley highlights the destination – printing addresses on envelopes, for example – and shows you how to get there. There is also a very useful hints and tips section at the back. A real winner.

2 Easily into LocoScript by Susan Rogers (Issue 36, p39)

This book-cum-training guide is for all those PCW 8000 series machine owners who aren't, as yet, completely au fait with the mysteries of the PCW's native word processor, LocoScript 1. It has been written with the complete novice in mind and, being a self-standing book, is tailor-made for self-study. There are twelve sessions in all, each one covering a different group of functions. Each chapter begins with a list of objectives and finishes with a series of multiple-choice questions just to make sure you've learnt what you should! Supplied with a LocoScript 1 training disc, this book represents excellent value for money.

3 Mallard BASIC Introduction and Reference by Locomotive Software (Issue 16, p41)

This is the reference guide to the Mallard BASIC language and as such is an indispensable item on the bookshelf of any PCW BASIC programmer. Written by the creators of Mallard BASIC, this book caters for the programming needs of 8000 and 9512 owners. The book contains vital sections for the information of both the 'learner' and the more experienced programmer. Detailed chapters on how to make use of Mallard BASIC and the 'Jatsam' file handling system as well as the GSX graphics extension make interesting – and vital – reading if you want to get the most out of the one of the two programming languages which come with your PCW.

4 Desktop Publishing with the Amstrad PCW by Michael Milan (Issue 16, p40)

A machine specific-DTP book; well, well, well. This book contains literally everything you wanted to know about the art of successful desktop publishing, including all the PCW DTP packages available and which word processors work best with what. Milan has also thoughtfully included some more general sections on design and layout;

these contain the kind of information that will always stand you in good stead no matter what machine you use. For anyone who is thinking of getting creative, this one's an absolute must.

5 Designs on Your Desktop by Harry Atherton (Issue 23, p22)

CAD, or Computer Aided Design, was one of those computerese buzz-phrases of the Eighties. In this book, Harry Atherton guides the unsuspecting computer user, step by step, through the various procedures involved in buying a CAD system, using it and editing your output. He briefly describes the basics of the computer and all the hardware attachments you might expect to come across when looking toward a CAD system. The tone is light and the subject matter informative. The only snag is that the book, not surprisingly, isn't PCW-specific. A good read nonetheless.

6 Program Your PCW! by Ian Sinclair (Issue 4, p50)

More printed advice for the Mallard BASIC programmer. This excellent book is aimed at the absolute beginner, providing, as soon as possible, hands-on experience in the form of short BASIC type-ins that actually 'do' something. Sinclair covers everything you're likely to want to know

about: displaying messages on the screen, data statements, formula and functions, loops and string-handling; it's all here for the learning. Stick with it, the joys of Jatsam are waiting to be discovered.

7 The SuperCalc Super Book by Elizabeth H Lee (Issue 28, p45)

SuperCalc 2 is the only SuperCalc version that is fully operational on the PCW. The SuperCalc Super Book was written to show you how to get the best out of the entire SuperCalc family of spreadsheets (SuperCalc 2, 3 and 4). Consequently, the PCW user likely to get the most out of this book probably has access to bigger machines which are making use of the suite's more sophisticated features. Clear illustrations and amusing cartoons add the finishing touches to this highly informative read.

8 All in One Business Computing: Amstrad PCW and Mini Office Professional by John M Hughes (Issue 24, p22)

This has replaced the accompanying manual as the definitive guide to Mini Office Professional. Hughes' lucid step by step approach makes a refreshing change as he encourages the user to gain hands-on experience as soon as possible.



The example walk-throughs which the author uses to penetrate the various modules concerned are easy to follow and highly workable. You won't be left wondering with this book.

9 15-Hour Word Processing Using the Amstrad Word Processor

by Anna Ruthven
(Issue 41, p51)
This is another crash course in LocoScript 1 which doesn't assume any prior knowledge or experience in its reader. It's an easy to follow, practical guide which explores the most useful features of the 8000 series machines when used in conjunction with the native word processor. More step by step instructions and exercises lead to direct hands-on experience as you gradually work your way through the Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Sections of the book; it's the only way to learn.

10 Looking into LocoScript 2 for the Amstrad PCW 9512, PCW 8256 and PCW 8512

by Susan Rogers
(Issue 26, p45)
Another welcome offering from the Rogers' stable which has, by now, perfected the art of software training whether in book or personal form. This

time, though, the emphasis is very definitely on LocoScript 1's successor. The book consists of 15 assignments altogether; in true Rogers' style, each one begins with a number of objectives (it always helps to know where you're headed); after that, it is just a matter of working your way through the instructions. One of the best things about this book is that Susan Rogers has devoted the last three chapters to the Loco addons LocoSpell and LocoMail and the various applications for which they can be used. A vital buy for the dedicated LocoScript 1 user who is definitely on the up and upgrade.

11 Choosing and Using CP/M Business Software on Amstrad Computers

by PK McBride
(Issue 12, p35)
Following the success of the PCW machines, a large amount of CP/M software was made available for the range. This book looks at the wide spectrum of CP/M-based business applications and helps you, not only choose the right software for the job in question, but get the most out of it as well. The book provides a wide range of general evaluation criteria for assessing business software packages and illustrates how the criteria can be applied in choosing the right package for a particular application. An absolute must for the small business.

12 Computers - Who Needs Them?

by D Charlton, S Kosminsky and M Lunnon
(Issue 27, p39)
Another book which was written to help anybody about to make important decisions concerning introducing and implementing new technology into the working environment. It successfully decodes most of the jargon that inevitably surrounds the introduction of office automation and looks at exactly what you want to do as well as how much money you have at your disposal to do it. A useful, needs-driven book for anyone considering taking this costly plunge.

13 The Z80 Pocketbook

by JB Vonk
(Issue 2, p32)
A technical little number this one; we're afraid that it really only makes recommended reading for those of you who are truly interested in the guts and gore of your machines. There are plenty of tables and diagrams which will present budding technophiles with all the information they're ever likely to need on their Z80 microprocessor in a very clear and lucid fashion. This book represents a convenient and portable source of information for Z80 assembly-language and machine-code programmers alike.

14 Hackers Handbook III

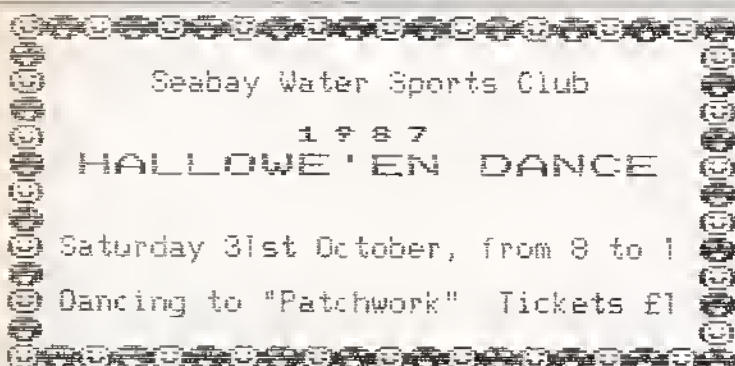
by Hugo Cornwall
(Issue 25, p41)
Ideal for the comms enthusiast and the serious hacker. It provides sound advice on the kind of equipment you will need before you start and reveals sources of information to tap when you do get going. Not surprisingly, staying on the lawful side of entry validation procedures (passwords to you and me) is of paramount importance; Cornwall consequently spends quite a lot of time encouraging you to get into the habit of asking the right sort of questions on approaching any unfamiliar system. An entertaining read for anyone in the comms world.

15 Computer Hobbyists' Handbook

by RA and JW Penfold
(Issue 34, p57)
This is the sort of book which quickly makes itself indispensable once it has been introduced to that gap in the desktop clutter which looks suspiciously like your desktop. It contains all those lucrative facts and figures which are usually sprinkled rather inconveniently across a wide range of suitably esoteric publications. Although not PCW-specific, the book is well-flush with end of the subject matter wide-ranging. It's a bargain!

JUST THE TICKET

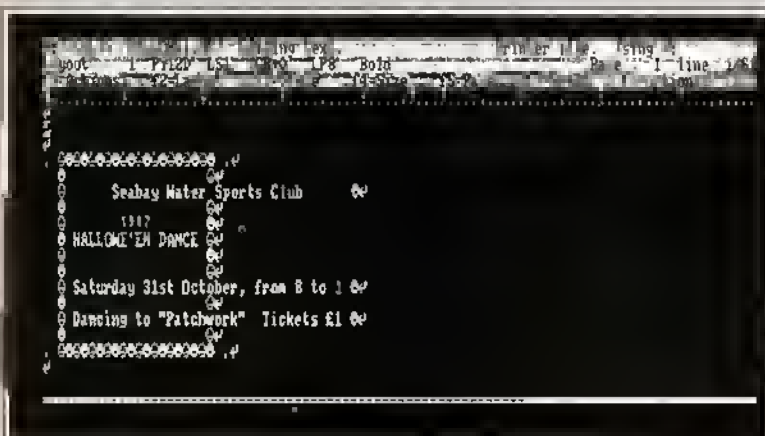
Keith Gibson shows you how to use LocoScript 2 to produce tickets for your next club or office dance



1 Using the wide range of characters, devise a suitable format. To produce the black smiling face in the border, I entered Symbol mode (press [ALT] and [I7] together), then [SHIFT] and [I] together. Just press [I] to produce the white face. The musical notes (on surrounding tickets) = Symbol mode + [SHIFT][I2]. The heart = Symbol mode + [I].



2 I used double-width for the main line. Because the double-width characters are not shown as such on the screen, it all looks rather strange until printed



3 Here we have the style codes. The line pitch is set at 8 (+LP8) instead of the normal LP6; this means that the border units are equally spaced horizontally and vertically

The PCW has been phenomenally useful to me as secretary of a local sports club, but it wasn't until I had some spare time that I applied it to the task of producing dance tickets. At the office, I have access to graphics materials such as Letraset, together with printing and photocopying facilities. I have always used these for posters, tickets, programmes and such like. But not any more.

The task was to produce 100 tickets for a Hallowe'en dance. Using the wide range of characters available in LocoScript 2, a suitable format was devised (screenshot 1), and printed to check that everything aligned correctly. For the first time I tried out some of the more exotic characters that the program offers – particularly for the border. Symbol mode ([ALT] + I7) plus [I] with and without the shift produces, respectively, the black and white masks. I used double-width for the main line. Because the double-width characters are not shown as such on the screen, (screenshot 2), it all looks rather strange until printed, but the screen-dump that includes the codes (screenshot 3) should explain the method.

Note also that the line pitch is set at 8 (+LP8) instead of the normal LP6, so that the border units are equally spaced horizontally and vertically.

More paste, more speed...

Having produced the perfect ticket – and this can only be checked properly by a trial print – the next task is to fill the whole page with the same design. In the size shown, it is possible to get ten tickets nicely onto an A4 sheet.

The ticket alongside the first is probably the most difficult to get into place. Setting up a [TAB] at a suitable position, I used the [COPY] and [PASTE] functions a line at a time, and again tested the result with a draft print. When completely satisfied, the pair of tickets were duplicated a further four times by pasting this block down the page.

Before doing so, try to work in the trim marks between and around the tickets as guides to chopping up the sheet into individual units when printed. Most of the trim marks can be included in the format of the first ticket, and duplicated at the same time as the ticket itself, but others may have to be inserted in the final polishing up. The finished result, printed in draft form, is shown in screenshot 4.

Exchange and mark

Now comes the clever bit – thanks to the versatility of LocoScript. When the next event came along, I realised there was no need to laboriously re-type and re-format everything; there was a much simpler way of doing it – the use of the Exchange facility.

Even the borders can be changed by this method, automatically. Calling up the [EXCH] menu, insert in the Find panel the character you want to discard. Move to the Exch line and type in the new border character (see page 264 of the LocoScript 2 User Guide for most of the characters shown in the examples), then enter the Automatic exchange option. Press [ENTER] and prepare to be amazed as a miraculous transformation takes place!

Using the same method, exchange new details for old, a line at a time. If your new line is shorter than the one it is

replacing, compare their relative lengths while they are one above the other in the [EXCH] menu, and Insert an extra space at each end so that the new line is centred when inserted in the ticket. Conversely, if the new matter is longer than the original line, include all the spaces that occur at either end of the text when you type it into the Find panel, so that the new text exactly fits the space available – difficult to explain here, but easy in practice.

Now you see why it is well worth while taking the trouble in the first place to achieve a perfect 'paste-up' of the total page. Including the trim marks: the format is going to be used time and time again, so a little extra care at first will pay dividends.

Quality control

As regards printing, either high quality or draft quality can be used. Use the former if you have plenty of time (each sheet takes about eight minutes to print out) or if you are going to get your master photocopied or litho-printed. Draft quality is perfectly satisfactory as long as your ribbon isn't too ancient or the paper too dark a colour, and a sheet takes less than three minutes to print. I found the maximum weight of paper that the printer could handle was about 135gms, but this is quite heavy enough for a small ticket. If you have access to a guillotine, use it to cut up the Individual tickets – even a craft knife and steel rule give a much better trim than scissors can.

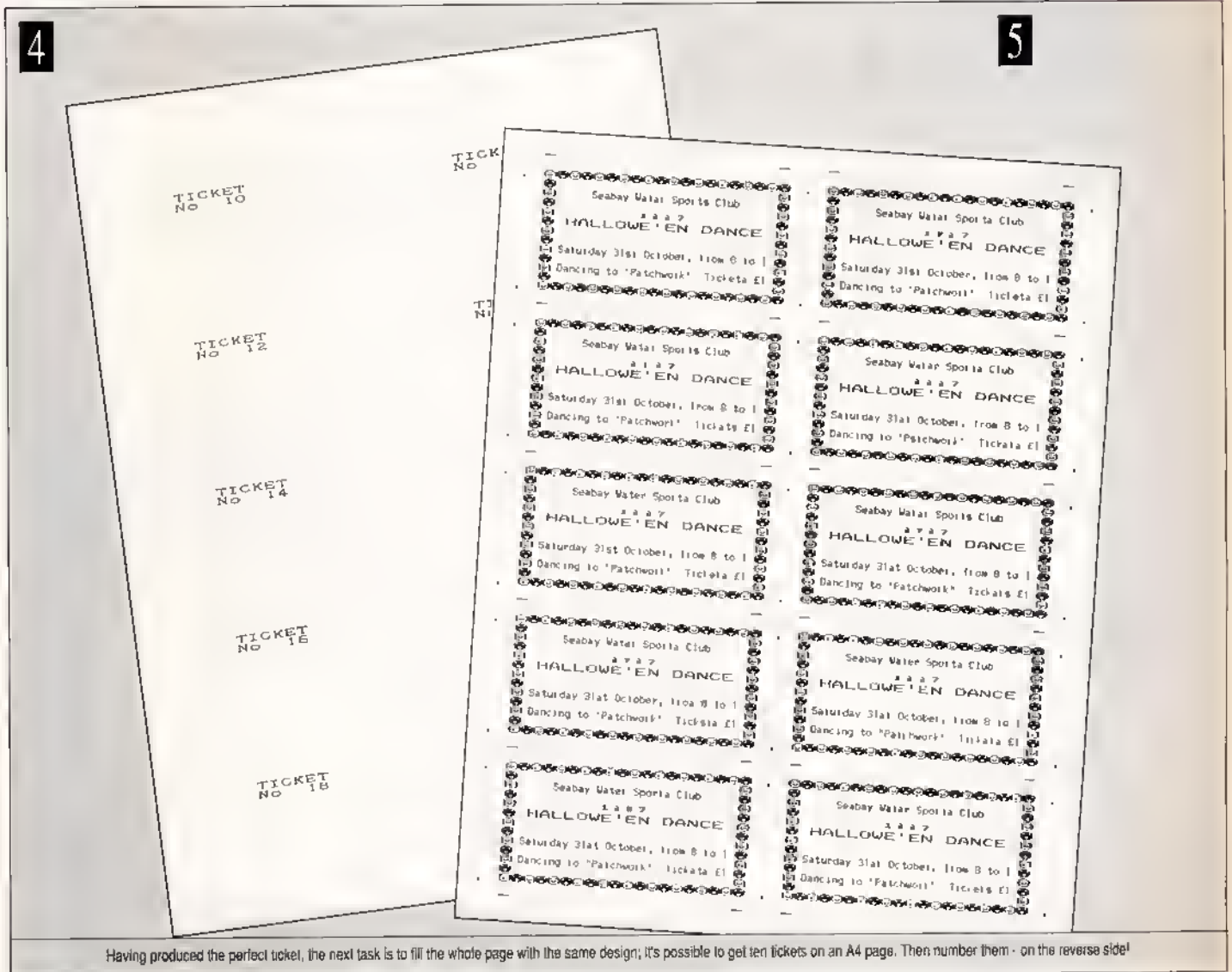
For the finishing touch, your tickets can easily be

numbered on the reverse. Set up the numbers '00' to '09' at the same spacing as the ticket grid, aiming to print somewhere near the centre of the reverse of each ticket. A simple way is to make a copy of the ticket itself, using [EXCH] to substitute spaces for everything except the little line, which will be replaced by the number alone, or elaborated by using something like picture 5 – you might as well use LocoScript's offerings to the full!

If you are going to be producing tickets on a regular basis, for 100 tickets you can set up ten pages containing numbers '01' to '100'. Make a copy of your first page, then use [EXCH] to change the first zeros to 1's and then 2's and so on; however, if you think about it, one number will have to be changed manually on each sheet.

Alternatively, changing the numbers for each page using [EXCH] is so easy that the re-numbering can be done as the sheets are being printed. But remember to edit manually the one number on each page that has both digits the same – the multiples of eleven – 22, 33 and so on.

I am constantly amazed by LocoScript's ability to solve what at first seems a difficult and time-consuming task. I had hardly used the Exchange facility until now, or exploited the exotic end of the character set. So, with all this in mind, it is certainly worth familiarising yourself with a working knowledge of as much as possible of LocoScript 2's many different features.



Having produced the perfect ticket, the next task is to fill the whole page with the same design; it's possible to get ten tickets on an A4 page. Then number them – on the reverse side!

The 8000+ Collection

The guide on all you need to know about the PCW. The best tips from 3 years of 8000+. A book and disk for only £15.00

RSC

CORPORATE

New Kempston Mouse

An ergonomic, 2 button mouse with Jeeves and Datofax software. Jeeves runs with most CP/M programs, providing icons and accessories. Datofax is an organiser that generates filefax compatible print-outs. Mouse and software for only £59.00

**EDUCATIONAL, CORPORATE, OR VOLUME PURCHASERS PLEASE CALL FOR ASSISTANCE
FREE DELIVERY (UK MAINLAND) • ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT**

PCW RANGE & ACCESSORIES

PCW 8256	£345.00
PCW 8512	£429.00
PCW 9512	£459.00

(PCW 9512 comes with FREE Sheetfeeder)
All PCW's come with FREE On-Site Maintenance



PCW ADD-ONS

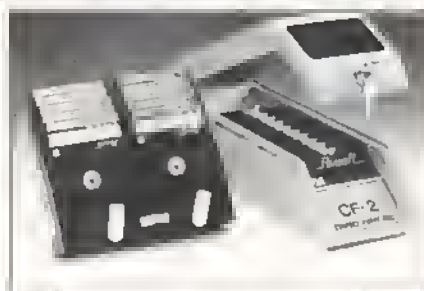
E07 PCW External 5.25" Drive	£139.00
E04 1Mb Drive	£115.00
(Second Disk Drive for the 8256/9512)	
Amstrad RS232 Centronics Interface	£45.00
PCW 8256/8512 Memory Upgrade	£P.D.A.
RSC PCW Printer/Power Extension 8256/8512	£11.00
9512 Printer Extension	£9.00
3" DISK DRIVE HEAD CLEANER	
The Clearhead	£6.50

DISKS

Why take chances with inferior disks, buy the best for your PCW, use Amsoft CF-2 disks. Fully Guaranteed.

Quantity Cost per box of 10

10	£21.50	20	£21.00
30	£20.50	40	£20.00



DISK STORAGE BOXES

AMS 10L (each)	£5.50
AMS 10L (x2)	£10.00
AMS 10L (x3)	£13.00
AMS 30L (each)	£9.50

PRINTERS

STANDARD PRINTERS & THE PCW

RS232 Centronics Interface - Connect the 8256/8512 to any standard printer, connect the 9512 to Communications peripherals.

RSC Special offer £45.00
RSC CA4 Cable (Interface to Parallel) £8.00

EPSON

LX400 80 Col	£142.00
FX850 80 Col	£330.00
EX1000 136 Col	£595.00
LQ550 80 Col	£279.00
LQ1050 136 Col	£565.00
LQ1060 (Colour) 136 Col	£685.00
LX850 80 Col	£185.00
FX1050 132 Col	£410.00
LQ400 80 Col	£219.00

LQ850 80 Col £440.00

LQ860 (Colour) 80 Col £550.00

LQ2550 (Colour) 132 Col £930.00

STAR

LC10 80 Col	£150.00
LC10 (Hk II)	£189.00
LC10 (Colour) 80 Col	£189.00
LC15 132 Col	£289.00
LC 24 15 132 Col	£385.00
NO10 80 Col	£299.00
NO15 132 Col	£365.00
LC24-10 80 Col	£220.00
NX15	£265.00
FR10 80 Col	£320.00

PANASONIC

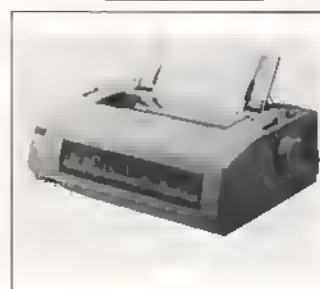
KX-P1180 80 Col	£145.00
KX-P1124 90 Col	£245.00
KX-P1540 136 Col	£440.00
KX-P1081 80 Col	£139.00
KX-P1592 136 Col	£275.00
KX-P 1595 136 Col	£375.00

AMSTRAD

LQ3500 80 Col	£209.00
LQ3000 136 Col	£295.00

NEC

P2200 80 Col	£265.00
P6+ 80 Col	£429.00
P7+ 132 Col	£545.00



PRINTER ACCESSORIES

PRINTER PAPER

80 Column listing paper per box

11"x9.5" 1 Port Plain 60gsm 2,000	£13.50
11"x9.5" 1 Port Plain 80gsm 2,000	£19.00
11"x9.5" 2 Port NCR 1,000	£21.50
A4 1 Port Plain 70gsm 2,000	£19.00
A4 1 Port Plain 90gsm 1,500	£18.50

132 Column listing paper per box

11"x14.5" 1 Port Plain 60gsm 2,000	£17.00
11"x14.5" 1 Port M/Rule 60gsm 2,000	£17.50

AMSTRAD PCW PRINTER MAINTENANCE KIT

For 8256/8512, removes dirt and ink deposits to maintain maximum print quantity. RSC PRICE £14.00

PCW 9512 SHEET FEEDER

At last a quality sheet feeder for the Amstrad 9512. A valuable addition to your 9512 printer. Includes modified software.

RSC SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE £69.00

MARGIN MAKER

A single sheet guide for the PCW 8256 & 8512 £9.10

9512 SINGLE SHEET GUIDE

RSC SPECIAL PRICE £14.95

PCW RIBBONS (Min order 2's)

Q1 2	£4.00 each
Q1 5	£3.50 each
Q1 10 (or more)	£3.00 each
PCW Multistrike Ribbons	£5.00 each
PCW Colour Ribbons (Blue/Brown/Red/Green)	£5.00 each
Ribbons available for most other printers.	

PCW 9512 RIBBONS

Multistrike

Q1 2	£3.35 each
Q1 5	£3.15 each
Q1 10 (or more)	£3.00 each

Eobir

Q1 2	£2.25 each
Q1 5	£2.00 each
Q1 10 (or more)	£1.75 each

For Daisywheel Printers Only

9512 Colour Ribbons Blue/Brown/Red/Green £5.00 each
PCW DAISYWHEELS

Courier 10 Script 120 rotor 10 Rerto 10 Thesis PS Prestige Elite
12 Letter Gothic, 10/12, Prestige, Piro, Mini, Gothic,
all at £5.25 each
Some available in French & German at £9.50 each

Telephone: (0923) 243301

HANDHELD COMPUTERS

PSION ORGANISERS



Psion Organiser II XP	£89.00
Psion Portable Printer	£169.00
Psion LZ 64K ROM, 32K RAM	£125.00
Psion LZ64 64K ROM, 64K RAM	£155.00
32K Data Park	£29.00
64K Data Park	£49.00
128K Data Park	£80.00
32K RAM Park	£40.00
Comms Link	£49.50
Organiser/Dev	£42.00
Portfolio	£42.00
Travel Park	£32.00
Formaller	£39.00
Finance Park	£24.00
Spellthruker	£24.00

ATARI PORTFOLIO

The smallest, lightest, cheapest MS-DOS portable in the world.
RSC UNBEATABLE OFFER £199.00

ATARI PORTFOLIO ADD-ONS

Serial Interface	£50.00
Parallel Interface	£34.00
Memory Expansion to 640K	£150.00
32/64/128 RAM cards	£42.00/£75.00/£110.00



SOFTWARE

RSC SELECTED SOFTWARE GRAPHICS

Micro Design II	£39.00
Masterpark	£52.00
Masterpoint	£12.00
Masterscan	£45.00
Desk Top Publisher	£19.00
Desk Top Publisher with AMX mouse	£54.00
Stop Press	£29.00
Stop Press with AMX mouse	£65.00
Fleet Street Editor Plus	£29.00

GENERAL

Mint Office Professional Original (9512 & Dual Drive 8000 Series)	£24.00
Sage Chit Chat	£69.00

Sage Chit Chat with Linnet Modem	£205.00
Easy Labeller	£21.00
Rotate	£16.00
AMX Mouse & Desktop Utilities	£47.00

ACCOUNTS

Sage Accounts	£56.00
Sage Accountant Plus	£88.00
Sage Invoicing	£40.00
Sage Payroll	£40.00
Stockmarket	£25.00
Money Manager	£32.00

DATABASES

Sage Retrieve	£40.00
Master File 8000	£28.00
Obase II	£42.00
Lorofile	£25.00

WORDPROCESSING

Prolex	£33.00
Lorascript 2	£20.00
Locascript 2 with Locospell 2	£27.00
Locospell 2	£16.00
Loromail 1 & 2	£25.00
Lorofont 1	£16.00
Lorofont 2	£12.00
New-Word II	£42.00

SPREADSHEETS

Superrator 2	£35.00
Cracker II (Turbo) RSC Special Price	£35.00

GENERAL ACCESSORIES

RSC E21A KEYBOARD STORAGE DRAW

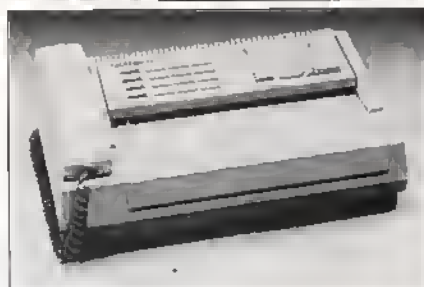
The RSC E21A keyboard storage draw features a sturdy steel & plastic construction. A PC keyboard slots in the tray which can be safely tucked out of sight when not in use. Saves space on your desktop & provides protection from dust & dirt. CPU & monitor stand on top.

RSC PRICE £27.00



FACSIMILE

NCW Amstrad FX9600T Fax	£535.00
NEW Brother Fax-150	£499.00
NEW Dialation Faxlink	£70.00



Amstrad FX9600T + Faxlink	£600.00
Brother Fax-150 + Faxlink	£564.00

GAMES

RSC TOP 10 GAMES

Brian Clough's Football	£10.00
Bridge Player 2000	£15.00
Classic Games 4	£12.00
Clark Chess '89	£12.00
Cyrus II Chess	£12.00
PCW Challenge	£10.00
Steve Davis Snooker	£12.00
Time and Magic	£10.00
Tamohawk	£13.00
Trivial Pursuit	£12.00

PRINTER ACCESSORIES

DUSTCOVERS

PCW8256/8512	£8.65
PCW9512	£8.65

PRINTER STANDS

PCW PRINTER STAND WITH CATCHER	£75.00
WIRE PRINTER STAND S25A	£7.50
PRINTER SUPPORT YU-S18	£9.50
PRINTER STAND 80 COL. S25A	£25.00
PRINTER STAND 132 COL. S25B	£29.00

LABELS

1,000 1 Across	£6.00
2,000 2 Across	£8.65

LASER LABELS

2,000 2 Across	£13.50
3,000 3 Across	£13.50



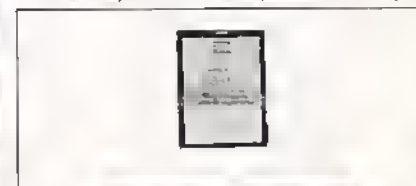
ANTI-STATIC MATS

280 x 210 x 4mm Fully earthed when connected.	
RSC M-03 Anti-Static Keyboard Mat	£8.95
595 x 250 x 4mm Fully earthed when connected.	
RSC M-04 Anti-Static PC Mat	£14.95

COPY HOLDERS

RSC 12 Desktop	£12.00
RSC 11 Desk Clamp	£12.00
RSC 132 Col Dedicated Clamp	£14.00

A must for every workstation, can be positioned to any angle.



4-WAY MAINS MULTI SOCKET

4 Way mains distribution socket. With built-in arrester to give full protection from mains borne spikes and surges	£15.00
Spike protected plug	£9.50

BACK TO BASIC

"A programmer? Me? No chance!" Geoffrey Childs allays your fears and tries to persuade you otherwise

Find ten good points about BASIC," was the Editor's brief. Simple, but which ten out of many should I mention? It is easier to write about ten 'bad' points – or rather, features of BASIC that some people believe to be bad. So, as devil's advocate, I shall answer the ten most common adverse comments I hear about BASIC for the PCW. I may convert the dubious and, at the same time, give ammunition to those who are already converts!

Q: I bought my PCW as a word processor, not to do programming. Why should I learn BASIC?

A: I bought my car to travel from A to B, but I find it comes in very useful as a filing cabinet! Uncle Jim bought his microwave to cook soup, but he has now learned how to cook baked beans too. You're the lucky one – you have bought a word processor, and most PCW owners think this alone is good value for their money. As well as this, you have a computer that can be used for other purposes – and it's not as expensive as other less versatile models. No, you don't have to learn to program, but surely it is worth considering when you will not have any substantial initial outlay.

Q: I wouldn't know how to start.

A: Easy, switch the computer on! Seriously, it isn't difficult to do something in BASIC – commanding your computer to be your slave. Of course, it is more difficult to make your slave do something really useful! You've switched on. Put your CP/M disc in the A drive, press space, and wait for the A> prompt. Type in BASIC and press [RETURN]. Soon you get an OK message which tells you that all is prepared for you to start. Type in `PRINT "I AM A GOOD SPEELER"` or anything else you like, press [RETURN], and see what happens. Now try, `PRINT 2+2`, press [RETURN], and if you were educated at Dotheboys Hall, you will probably have learned one of the facts of life! People have been known to catch the computing bug by doing this, or less. Maybe the next step is to try typing in a short program from a magazine, or to read an elementary series on programming. More on this in a moment.

Q: I'm not the sort of person who would be successful at programming.

A: You don't know, do you? And if you don't try you never will know. I used to have the same feelings about skiing. I remember emerging upside down from a snowdrift, only to hear a stentorian German voice from the valley below: "Father Christmas! Stay there. I am coming up to photograph you." And then there was the incident of the ski-lift and the skis that got away.... At least, if you program, you can make your mistakes in private (unlike skiing) – it is better to have tried and lost than never to have tried at all.

Q: There isn't a manual about BASIC. Why not?

A: There used to be one when the PCW was first marketed, but it is now sold separately by Locomotive. Whether this manual is the most suitable way to start BASIC is open to question. You may find it easier to buy a paper back such as *BASIC in 30 Hours*, which is a tutorial on BASIC on any computer. Mallard BASIC on the PCW won't be exactly the same as, say, Commodore 64 BASIC, but there will be common ground for most of the simple commands you will use. Ian Sinclair's book for the PCW (*Program Your PCW!*) is well liked. You may find some special offers of these books in 8000 Plus. By the time this article is published, we also

hope to have a series of tutorial material at PCW World.

Q: I would like a program to classify my pet hippos, but wouldn't it be more cost effective to buy a commercial program than to write one?

A: Maybe. A commercial program will probably be much more skilfully written than anything you write yourself. However, you are likely to find that it has been made to cater for giraffe owners or beetle collectors. There may, on the other hand, be special features (such as classification by thickness of skin) that you want, which are not available from the commercial program. So there are advantages in a personalised program.

Cost effective? Consider this parallel. Is it worth buying a patch of garden, spending hours digging, weeding, planting and watering just to have half a dozen meals of fresh peas in June or July? Your peas will taste better to you than any you could buy in the shop, not necessarily because they are any better, but because they are the result of the efforts you have enjoyed. Same with your hippo program!

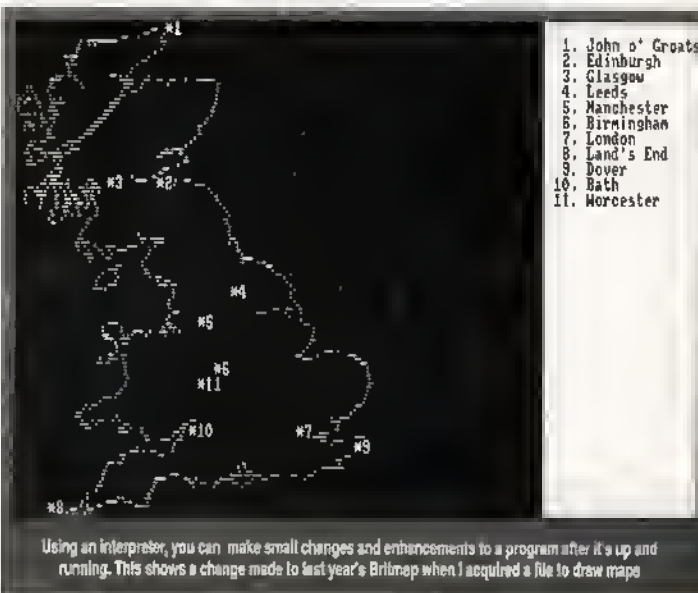
Q: They say Mallard is a difficult version of BASIC. Is it?

A: In the long run, no. However, it does have an unattractive feature that is unhelpful to beginners. Most BASICs will have commands like `CLS` to clear the screen, and similar commands for other elementary procedures. Mallard does this by 'escape codes'. You have to use:

`PRINT CHR$(27)"E"CHR$(27)"H"`

to clear the screen, for example. Horrid, but let me tell you how to cheat. There's a good chance that in this magazine there will be a program with a lot of these escape codes written into the first few lines. Find how they are used, copy them, save them, and you can then start with this base for your own masterpieces.

Personally, I usually avoid this problem by using or incorporating DWBAS into a program, a small extension that is available with my book, Streamlined BASIC. As you can see from the third screen shot, it will also allow you to access high resolution graphics – although there are some taster and more sophisticated add-on programs that you can buy, it



GOBLIN WONDER

At long last there is an adventure game for beginners. Does this mean that it is too simple or is it just right? Tim Smith explores

GOBLIN TOWERS

£14.95 • Classic Quests/Audiogenic
• 01 861 1166

There's this treasure and there's this monster, right? You have to get the former from the latter. Flashed by the thought of an untimely death, but full of belated chivalrous dreams (and possibly over-flowing with adrenaline) you set off to do battle. It should be held in mind here that so did several hundred other adventurers and none have as yet returned.

This text-only adventure from Classic Quests is the first, and most simple, in a series of five. The plot is fairly routine; you are a brave warrior who seeks to retrieve treasure from a castle which is infested with small, anti-social goblins. There is a maze, a forest, a cottage, some passages, a metal grating and trouble around every bend.

Classic Quests have no qualms about admitting that this is very much a game for beginners to adventuring. Everything is kept simple, except for the forest which seems to change in

when by the program. You can travel quite happily East and find yourself in impenetrable forest, but try going West to backtrack and the path you were on might have mysteriously disappeared.

This appears to be a problem with the two Classic Quest games reviewed over these pages. For those of you who bother to make maps, this spacial contortion act makes life rather difficult. On the other hand, if you play by ear or follow your nose (by putting your foot down with a firm hand and not taking any lip while shooting from the hip ... enough anatomy for now ...) then it could jazz up the proceedings somewhat.

Parse the dutchle

Adventure games are reliant on parsers. These are basically the sections of the program which allow player to communicate with computer and give the illusion that the converse is also happening. An easy game can be made incredibly difficult by a bad parser. In the case of Goblin Towers, the parsing is irritating — verging on the obscure.

For example, you might be told that you are surrounded by trees, so you decide to examine them in the hope of finding a branch to hit someone with. The chances are that you will be informed that the computer has never heard of the word 'tree' and, what's more, you can't even hit — you have to 'mug' or 'break'. Of course there is great fun to be had in discovering the words you are allowed to use but a few obvious ones such as 'hit' could have been included.

The puzzles, on the other hand, are rather intriguing. You can get into the castle with little or no trouble after finding your way around the forest. Getting to the main tower, however, is another matter entirely. Because the number of words held in the vocabulary of the game's parser is so limited, your actions are limited. In theory this should aid the newcomer who will be unable to confuse themselves by following up red herrings. In fact, the courses of action open to you are few and far between and once inside the castle, death comes easy. So remember to save your position as often as you can.

Here's a final tip for the game itself. If someone with a height deficiency, a large weapon and foul breath has a go at you ... don't bother complaining or coming over all macho (or Femcho, if there is a female equivalent!) just think it over.

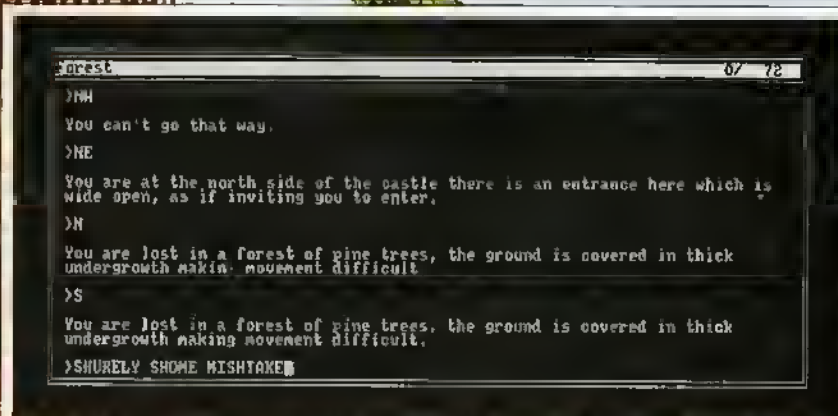
IN A NUTSHELL

A game for beginners to adventuring. Limited parser gives strictly controlled action. A few good puzzles are marred slightly by the eccentric mapping. Quite a slow starter but reasonable for those of you who gave up on the HitchHiker's Guide after the tractor.

GOBLIN TOWERS

ATMOSPHERE	3/5	CHALLENGE	2/5
ADDICTIVENESS			3/5
8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT 8/15			

26 8000 PLUS April 90



This is either the forest of Dunsinane or some seriously strange mapping going on within the program. Come to think of it, the game may well have been based on every one-way system built since 1958 ... so maybe it's not that weird??

proportion as well as orientation and location — or maybe that was just bad mapping on our part! For the veteran of such games as Knighthood or the Guild of Thieves (to name but two) this game would hold little challenge. Its worth is really only shown to those people who bought the other two games only to give up in utter disgust when the apple kept exploding in the garden or — more likely — that they couldn't even manage to see in the dark.

Absolute beginners

You start your quest from a small cottage on the borders of the rather mobile forest. For those virgin to this kind of thing, there are a number of ground rules to which you should adhere in Goblin Towers. Firstly, examine everything; the programmers have helpfully re-defined the function ([1], [2], and so on) keys to provide oft used commands, so examining, picking up and dropping things need never wear out your fingertips.

Secondly, if the articles you have examined don't bite, kill, move or in any way threaten, then 'Take' them ... they might be useful or they might even be treasure. Thirdly, take no notice of the directions you are

TREE'S COMPANY

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a few big surprises.
Get lost with this second Classic Quest

FORESTLAND

£14.95 ● Classic Quests/Audience

● 01 861 1166

Are you dreaming or are you awake? Is it a nightmare on elm, oak or maple street? Forestland, another Classic Quests adventure sees you living a recurring dream in which you have to find your way home from a wicked wood. The questions you have to ask yourself here are, how did you get from your bed to the forest? Why are you in the forest and how in tarnation do you get back to your quilt and pillows?

Leafing party

As with the other games in the Classic Quests series, this one lacks any graphics and is played on an inverted screen – black on green. The company tell us that Forestland is rated as 'fairly difficult' and that is just about right.

The first point of any interest you stumble upon is a tree with a small, well crafted dwarfish door (they don't make small, well crafted dwarfish doors like they used to). Now, you know that you should go in but as usual in this kind of fantasy situation, you have no key ... as yet. What you should have is a torch, but no way to light it. You get the picture.

This forest has no intention of letting you leave, and it will give you very little navigation help. You begin with nothing, not even a stitch to wear, or so it seems, and from there on in it is down to your ingenuity to solve the many puzzles which will befuddle you.

Call of the wild

The mapping in Forestland would appear to be a tad contrary. Unless there are a great number of space/time warps, circular paths and general weirdness (which there probably are) there is something radically wrong with the forest. The best thing to do here is get yourself some squared paper, a good strong pen and some patience pills. Getting lost is a way of life in this dingly-dell.

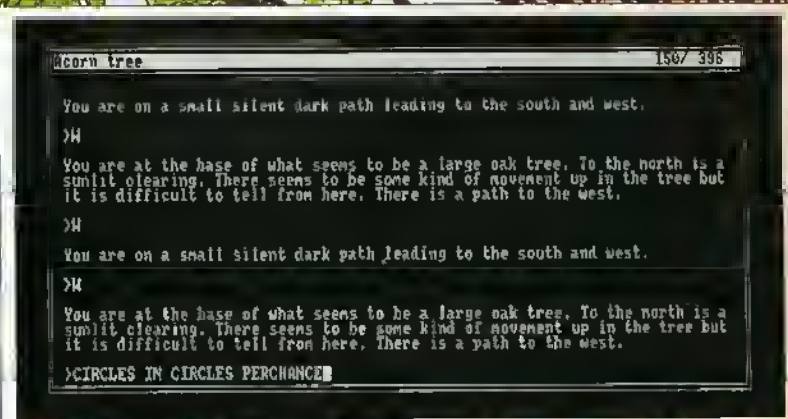
A sure-fire way to die is to venture into a hole with an unlit torch. Seemingly out of spite, the program will send a non-specific entity to devour you if you enter anywhere unilluminated. Entering the same place with a burning torch will find the monster gone and you intact. Now, it may well be the case that the beastie is afraid of the light but it is far more likely that this ploy is a warning to new adventurers that there is something to fear apart from fear itself.

Nuts!

Unlike many adventure games, Forestland (as well as Goblin Towers) does not mess around with long descriptive passages. This can serve two opposing purposes; it can either speed the game up (but this can be achieved using the SuperBrief) or it can sacrifice atmosphere. Frankly, the latter appears to be the case as you find yourself racing towards the end of the game with no birds singing, fluffy animals fluffing or interesting conversations enlivening your quest.

Despite these moans, Forestland is playable and would make a good leaping off point for those among our readers who dislike puns, comedic interventions or anything else which might divert them from the path to ultimate victory.

Beware however of saving to memory. In both Goblin Towers and Forestland whenever you get eaten, drown, die or



Graphics, or the lack of them, have long been a bone of some contention among adventurers. Classic Quests don't muck around - there are no pictures to ruin the flow or heighten the atmosphere, just text, text and more text

disappear, two things happen. Firstly you are transported, rather ignominiously, back into an inverted CP/M screen (use PALZ 445 60MM to reverse this) and secondly the saved games in memory are wiped.

Country roads

However, we should not be thinking along such gloomy lines as the death of an intrepid adventurer. As long as you make sure to save to disc at regular intervals and avoid dark places, even the real green-horns amongst you should complete the quest.

In order to achieve this you must realise two things; firstly, there is very little humour - in fact the wittiest remarks come when you type in the odd curse or outright obscenity - there are none of the puns which resonate through, for example, the Rainbird games. Nor are there any of the quirky puzzles which you might find in Level Nine (gawd rest them) outings. Secondly, all of the puzzles are very logical. The lack of humour gives a dead-pan ring to the entire affair, so the best course of action is to pretend that you are taking part in a lateral thinking competition. As a parting tip for the game itself, remember where the best nets are cast.

IN A NUTSHELL

Descriptive passages are terse. Parsing is fairly basic. Puzzles are good. If you want a hack'n'slash, then this really isn't for you. Some brain power is required, as is a great deal of patience. This wouldn't be a disappointment to receive as a surprise present.

FORESTLAND

ATMOSPHERE	2/5	CHALLENGE	3/5
ADDICTIVENESS			4/5
8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT			9/15

PAPER

Best quality white wood-free - LOW DUST spec.

Type & Weight	Box	£/box	
11/9.5 80gsm Fanfold Listing	2000	£13.95	ALL PLUS CARR.
11/9.5 70gsm Microperforated	2000	£15.95	
11/9.5 85gsm Letter Quality	1000	£10.95	
A4 Size 70gsm Microperforated	2000	£19.95	
A4 Size 85gsm Letter Quality	1000	£11.95	
11/9.5 NCR 2-part Plain	1000	£21.95	
11/9.5 NCR 3-part Plain	700	£24.95	
... and then there's our UNIQUE A5 continuous paper ...			
A5 Size 80gsm Letter Quality	1000	£11.95	

LABELS

Top quality fanfold labels by Avery - the best!

★ Address size 3.5in/1.5in 1 or 2-across £3.75 /1000 + Carr

Other Sizes (All prices per 1000) -

2.75in/1.0in	£2.75
2.75in/1.5in	£3.70
3.5in/1.0in	£3.15
3.5in/2.0in	£6.30
4.0in/1.0in	£3.40
4.0in/1.5in	£4.50
4.0in/2.0in	£6.50
5.0in/1.0in	£3.95
5.0in/1.5in	£5.95

ALL PLUS CARR.

Please don't forget to add carriage! (paper/label orders only)
Deliveries now undertaken by
ANC EXPRESS

All prices INCLUDE VAT.

Delivery - See Below
NEW! Next-day service available NOW
England & Wales - Mon to Fri - ring us by Spml

DISKS

MAXELL CF-2

just £21.95 per 10
or £11.50 for 5 inc VAT!

Spare disk labels £2 per 50

FREE

Lockable Disk Bank
worth £9.95

with every 20 disks!



CASPELL
COMPUTER

Cost
effective
computing
starts here!

RIBBONS

UK made for best quality & longest life!

PRINTER	CODE No.	PRICE BAND
8256 Std. Fabric Black	2741FN	B
B256 Fabric LONGLIFE	2741LL	C
Extra value - 750kchars		
B256 Fabric Colours	2741C	C
Blue, Brown, Red, Green		
8256 Multistrike Films	2741MS	B
8256 ribbons also suit 8512s.		
We recommend FABRIC ribbons for this printer.		
9512 Multistrike Films	2746MS	B
9512 Fabric Black	2746FN	B
9512 Fabric LONGLIFE	2746LL	C
Extra value - 750kchars		
9512 Fabric Colours	2746C	C
Blue, Brown, Red, Green		
Multistrike films are the kind supplied with new 9512s but FABRIC ribbons can be used with Ribbon Retreesh.		
Lifetimes: Multistrike: 100 kchars		
Fabric Std: 400 kchars		
Fabric Longlife: 750 kchars		

RIBBON PRICES inc VAT & post			
	1-off	2-off	5-off
Price Band B	£3.95	£7.45	£16.95
Price Band C	£4.95	£8.95	£19.95

Mix 'n' Match: ANY 5 Band B for £16.95
or ANY 5 Band C for £19.95

DUST COVERS

Protect your computer from:
Dust • Coffee • Children • Pets
Smart, machine-washable 3-piece sets
Amstrad 8256/8512 set
Amstrad 9512 set
now only £9.95

STRIPPERS!

Really handy little
gadget - strips perfed
edges from fanfold paper
without effort. No
more broken fingernails!
£9.95 inc VAT

RIBBON REFRESH

The Fabric Ribbon Restorer

Our own invention - Carbon in a Can!

Simply lift off ribbon casing & apply fresh carbon
to your ribbon - double its life in seconds!

One handy can does up to 30 ribbons

still just £8.95
TRY IT TODAY!

NOW OVER
14000
SATISFIED USERS!

All prices INCLUDE VAT.

Delivery - See Below

SOFT SPOT

LocoFile	£28.95	Cornix Simple Accounts	£79.95
LocoMail	£28.95	Money Manager PCW	£39.95
LocoFont	£22.95	Sage Pop Accs	£74.95
LocoScript2	£24.95	Sage Pop Accs Plus	£109.95
LocoSpell2	£19.95	Sage Pop Payroll	£54.95
LocoScript & Spell	£32.95	MAP Integrated Accs	£109.95
Prolexi	£44.95	MAP Stock Control	£49.95
Pocket Prolexi	£28.95	MAP Payroll	£49.95
Geek Top Publisher	£22.95	SUPERCALC2 still only	£39.95
DTP + AMX Mouse	£84.95	Cracker2 Turbo	£36.95
Stop Press	£39.95	Amor Maxem Assembler	£39.95
Stop Press + Mouse	£79.95	Amor C prog lang.	£39.95
MicroDesign2	£49.95	Knife Plus	£18.95
MicroDesign + Mouse	£89.95		
AMX Mouse & 1/face	£49.95		
dBaseIII	£59.95	★ SPECIAL OFFER! ★ ROGERS PCW ACCOUNTING Superb new system RRP £84.50 Our price £74.95 incl. Demo disk £4.95 refunded against order	
AtLast Plus	£29.95		
MaierFile 8000	£38.95		
Cornix Card Index	£29.95		

★ Please state which PCW you have
when ordering software!

9512 Daisywheels:

Courier 10, Recta 10, Orator 10, Pica 10, Gothic 10/12,
Script 12, Elite 12, Mini Gothic 15, Thesis PS
now only £5.95 inc VAT

- HOW TO ORDER -

DELIVERY	PAPER	LABELS	EVERYTHING ELSE
	(any quantity)	(any quantity)	
UK Mainland:	3/5-day: £5.00	3/5-day: £2.50	3/5-day: FREE
	24-hour: £10.00	24-hour: £10.00	24-hour: £10.00

Overseas: Postage at cost. Callers (of course!) FREE

Order by FREEPOST - Cheque/PQ/Visa/Access
Caspell Computer, Dept 8K, FREEPOST, Poole, Dorset BH15 2BR

Order by PHONE - VISA/ACCESS WELCOME!
☎ (0202) 666155 (24hr)

Offers Valid
for 28 days

CALLERS WELCOME - open 9-5 Mon/Sat
Unit 2A, Sterte Ind Est, Sterte Rd, Poole

next to the hump-
back bridge!

ONLY THE LONELY

Working from home doesn't have to mean staying out in the cold. Andrew Bibby reports on a project that has been designed to help the home worker

Working from home can be a rewarding experience. In fact, some people say that it represents the future of work. What's promised is a kind of Industrial Revolution in reverse, which will see us all deserting the large centralised workplaces in favour of earning our livings in the comfort of our own homes.

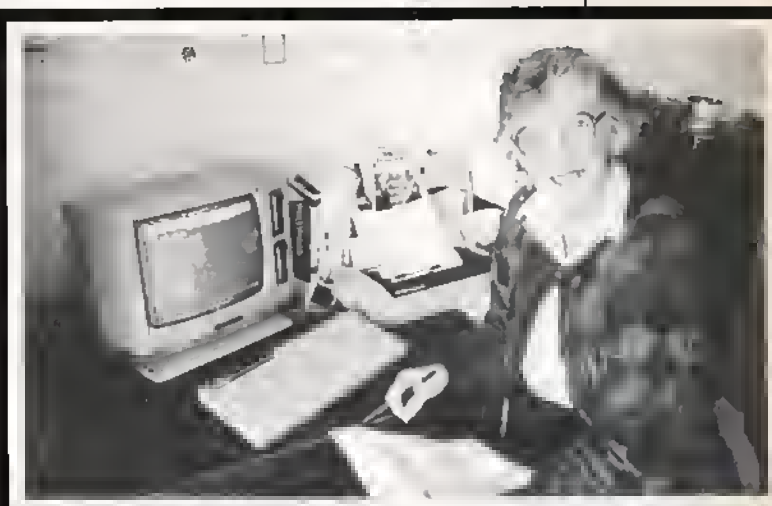
Instead of commuting in to the office through rush-hour traffic or crowded trains, we'll be 'telecommuting': using microcomputers and modems, linking up with work colleagues through comms technology, going on-line to databases to access the information we need, and sending faxes instead of in-house memos.

We'll be freed from the constraints of having to live within travelling distance of the workplace so that, at least in theory, we will be able to move to the Scottish highlands, the Northumberland moors (or even a nice little converted farmhouse in the Auvergne) – in fact anywhere where there's a power source and a telephone line.

Telecommuting – or if you prefer, teleworking – is definitely in the news. Business consultants who researched the subject for the CBI and British Telecom (BT, not surprisingly, are delighted at the idea that businesses may be making yet more use of telecommunications) estimated that over 7 million employees were doing jobs which, at least partially, could be undertaken from home. By 1995, they said, 49% of the labour force could, in theory, be teleworking.

Home, sweet home

Of course some of us are working from home already, making our office in the spare bedroom or in a corner of the living room, and booting up our PCW first thing each morning. As 8000 Plus readers will know, you don't need expensive computer equipment to get started on a teleworking career. (Take no notice of the recent *Independent on Sunday* article which suggested that a minimum investment of about £3,500



Says OwnBase originator, Chris Oliver: 'I'd never even used a computer before, but I wanted the newsletter so badly.'

on computer hardware and software would be needed first!)

But although the idea of teleworking is a seductive one, there can be a downside too. Working by yourself can bring on its heels long hours of loneliness and isolation. There's the lack of stimulation that can come if you're only yourself for company – and the danger that you miss out on career promotion by being out of the mainstream of company life.

There's the question of how you integrate work with your ordinary family life, juggling your work commitments against childcare responsibilities or the need to get the washing up cleared before the kitchen sink finally vanishes from sight. employment as well. You're responsible for your own financial affairs and coping with tax, National Insurance and perhaps

Letters begin

OwnBase would hardly exist without its bi-monthly newsletter. It's the main method that members have for keeping in touch with each other, and it's full of news, business tips, and advice on legal or technical issues – as well as discussion about the problems and anxieties which sooner or later all home-based workers find they are facing.

The first newsletter was a simple photocopied affair, put out by Chris Oliver in 1986. About 35 people responded – and from that the organisation was born.

The OwnBase newsletter is still edited and produced by Chris Oliver from her home in Milborne Port, north Dorset, and she uses the same PCW 8512 which she bought for that first pioneering issue. "People keep saying that I should get a more sophisticated computer, but I'm too fond of it. I think it does a very good job," she says.

Chris says that she is thinking about using a desktop publishing package to help her in the production of the newsletter. At the moment, however, the sixteen pages of A4 are created simply using LocoScript 1 – though Chris has set up a bank of fifteen model page layouts to give some variety to the text. As well as using different column sizes, Chris also makes good use of the facility to change pitch sizes: it's surprising how different Pitch17 letters look from Pitch12.

"I learnt how to use the PCW producing the first newsletter," says Chris. "It took me about five weeks. I'd never even used a computer before, but I wanted that newsletter so badly."

Amadeus to the rescue

Chris says that, as well as wading her way through the official manual, she found the Clarity Guide to LocoScript helpful. A particular favourite was the audio cassette tutor produced by Real Time: "a warm voice telling you what to do in simple language – better than a manual".

However, as Chris admits, the learning process was not without its difficulties. "When the machine would NOT do what I wanted, I'd go away and play Mozart's Requiem very loud," she says. "This sent me back to tell my computer, 'Beat that, you pathetic gadget!'"

As OwnBase develops, Chris is keen to see the organisation begin to make use of comms technology, to enable members to keep in touch more effectively with each other. "We're a devolved organisation, and the work is carried on in different homes. We communicate by phone and by snail mail, and it's really limiting," she explains. "There's a limit, too, to the number of people we can involve until we get on-line to each other."

The problem is simply financial. What Chris and the OwnBase members hope is that somewhere out there is an e-mail provider, a comms manufacturer or a software company who would like to play benefactor to the group. "We're an interesting little guinea-pig organisation, who could fry out the technology for them," she argues. Any offers?

OWNBASE

Powerhouse

At the other end of the work spectrum, is the Telecommuting Powerhouse, an American-style networking organisation dedicated to promoting the pleasures and satisfactions of high-tech telework. The Telecommuting Powerhouse produce a newsletter and operate telephone advice 'surgeries' (annual subscription £12). They also offer a free database service where teleworkers can list their skills. The Powerhouse can be contacted on 0836-238812.

VAT. You won't have an employer to pay you when you're sick or on holiday, or to contribute to a pension scheme for your eventual retirement. And you have to pay the bills: the telephone, the heating and lighting of your 'office' - even your own jars of coffee for the coffee breaks, too.

What home-based workers need, perhaps, is an informal organisation linking together other people in the same situation - a self-help group which can help to combat some of that loneliness, and which can provide support, encouragement and advice when it's needed.

This, at least, was what Chris Oliver thought was needed. Chris, a former social worker, found herself engaging in freelance work from home after she and her husband had moved from South Wales to Dorset. She describes herself as a "naturally solitary worker" but, even so, she found that she was beginning to suffer from isolation. Her solution was to buy an Amstrad PCW 8512 and use it to produce a brief newsletter, HomeBase, which she sent to a hundred or so friends and contacts.

DIY self-help

That was in 1986. Now, four years later, that original initiative has grown into a fully-fledged members' organisation, producing a regular bi-monthly newsletter, and offering a welcome to anyone "whose work, whether for others or for themselves, part- or full-time, paid or unpaid, is done at home".

OwnBase (the name was changed after some learned friends from Sainsburys pointed out that their DIY shops had a monopoly on the original name) can now boast a membership in an extraordinary range of jobs: from A Level marking to Aromatherapy, computer consultancy to cake making, inventing to Inn sign painting. If you're a home-based worker, the chances are that there's somebody in OwnBase in your line of work; and you won't be surprised to know that 8256s, 8512s and 9512s are all well-represented among the membership.

OwnBase maintains the informality which Chris Oliver used in her first newsletter. There are regular meetings of members in a number of geographical areas (currently Hampshire, London, Herts/Beds, Cheshire/Lancs and Wessex), as well as occasional gatherings elsewhere, like the one held recently in Cheltenham. But most contact takes place through the columns of the newsletter.

The latest issue, for example, has contributions from members on a range of practical questions facing the home-based worker: how to get paid on time, how to make more space for work, what to do about your business during holiday periods, what to do with the 9512 manual (use it as a doorstop!).

There are several letters from members in response to an earlier article about the health and safety implications of using a computer at home ("In spite of taking regular breaks from the word processor I was still getting a stiff neck and aching shoulders. Then I lowered the seat to the height suggested.")

There are two brief suggestions about ways to undertake the self-publishing of a book (mind you, a better idea might be to read the two articles we ran in 8000 Plus last year!) There is a helpful article about the implications of planning permission rules, building regulations and the coming of the dreaded poll tax for home workers.

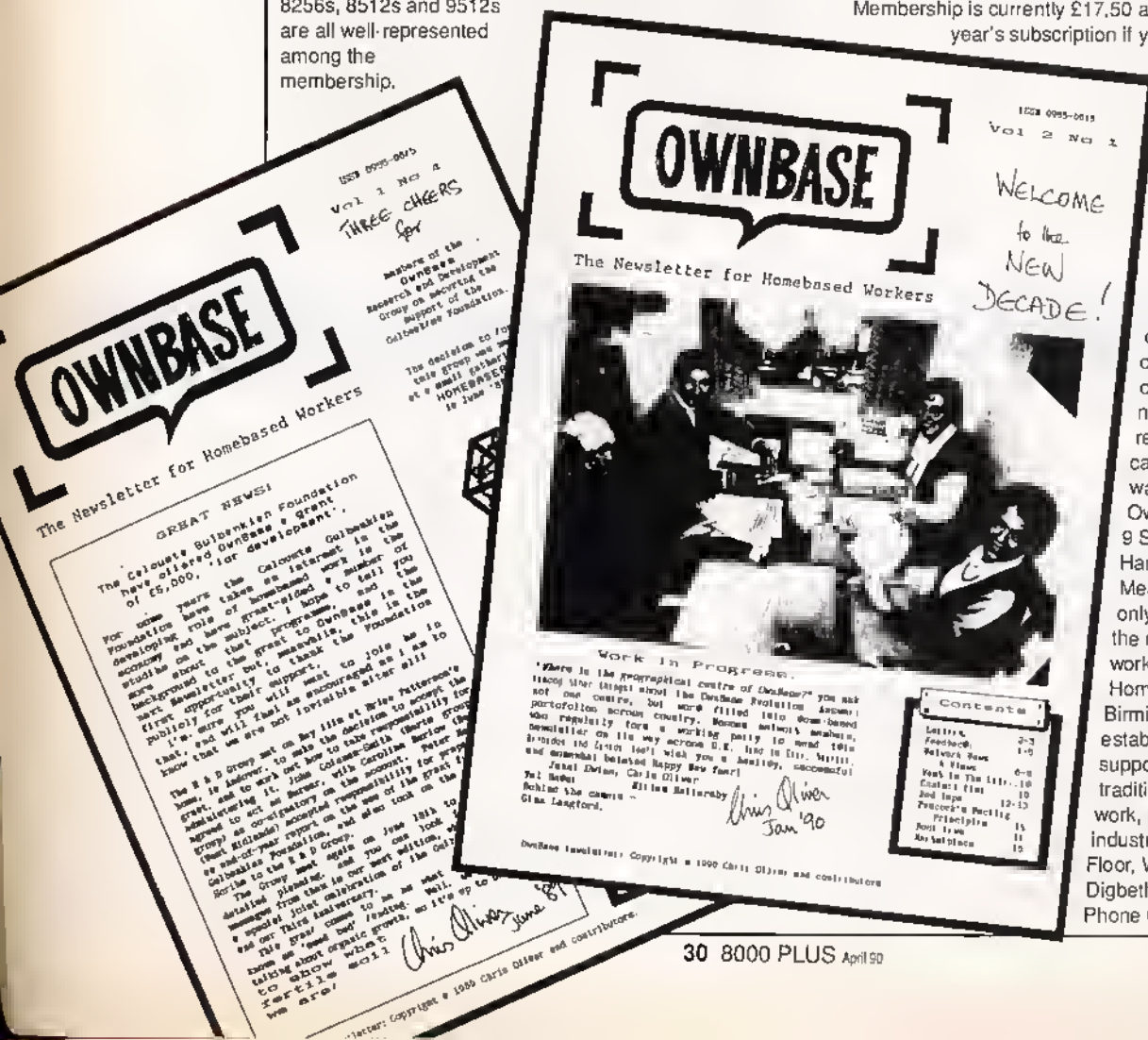
Membership offer

And, finally, there is plenty of news about OwnBase itself. OwnBase has grown steadily over the last few years, but is still only reaching a tiny percentage of two million or so people who are working from home. Almost all the work for the organisation is being put in voluntarily, though the group received a boost last year when the Gulbenkian Foundation chipped in with a £5,000 grant. An eighteen strong 'research and development' group of members is now investigating ways that OwnBase can expand - and attract more members. Membership is currently £17.50 a year (10% off the first year's subscription if you pay by direct debit).

Anyone considering membership may prefer first, however, to take up the offer of a free copy of the OwnBase newsletter. In order to see exactly what the group has to offer.

If you do join, they say, "as a member you can simply sit back and allow the 16-page newsletter to combat that sense of creeping isolation. Or you can take part in active networking - trading skills and resources. Or perhaps you can join in and influence the way OwnBase grows."

OwnBase's contact address is 9 Salisbury Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 2JJ. Meanwhile, OwnBase isn't the only organisation catering for the needs of home-based workers. The National Homeworking Unit is a Birmingham-based organisation established in 1987, primarily to support homeworkers engaged in traditional low-paid and low-status work, especially in the clothing industry. The Unit is based at 3rd Floor, Wolverley House, 18 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6BJ. Phone 021 643 6352.



Com-Stax

THE ULTIMATE SPACE SAVER

"Interesting solution thoughtfully designed" says 8000 Plus

The new Com-Stax 8 Series is a unique stand that will stack your PCW 8256 or 8512 plus your keyboard and printer in under a quarter of a square metre of floor space. Its reclining monitor position and angled keyboard make the PCW even more user friendly. The Com-Stax is 98 cm high, 41 cm wide and beautifully finished in durable red, white or black lacquer. The unit comes to you as a flat pack kit which is easily assembled in minutes with the allen key provided



THE PRICE: £35.00

PLUS VAT £5.25 and P&P £4.70
TOTAL £44.95

TO ORDER:

Post your cheque for £44.95
together with your name and address
and choice of colour: red, white or black to:

COM-STAX LTD, FREEPOST, LONDON, SW5 0BR
Tel: 01.244 8292

please quote 8

Please allow 28 days for delivery. The Com-Stax is a Copyright design. Patent applied for.

PCW 9512 and PC 15 Models and
Add-Ons now available. Phone or
write for brochure & prices.

Cut Printer NOISE by up to 90%

Noisy Printers are a major source of stress and will significantly reduce the efficiency of you and your colleagues.

AMGARD Acoustic Hood will cut stressful printer noise by up to 90% enabling other tasks and functions to continue during printing.

Not only will you hear the phone ring but you will actually have two-way conversations again!

AMGARD Acoustic Hood features a 'see-through lid' with 'memory hinges' for easy access plus provision for single, continuous and automatic sheet feeders where fitted.

AMGARD Acoustic Hood comes assembled ready to use with a model to suit your printer and at a price that won't make a big noise on your budget, e.g. AMSTRAD PCW9512 £99, with sheet feeder £139

AMGARD Acoustic Hood, the professional solution for all printers. Phone for price and delivery for yours.

Free delivery applies to UK mainland. Prices exclude VAT.

ORDERING: CALL our 24-hour Hotline NOW



0993-883277



PLC Gov't Educational & Dealer
Orders Welcome or send payment to:
or FAX 0993-883333
State make & model of hardware when ordering
AMGARD is a registered trade name

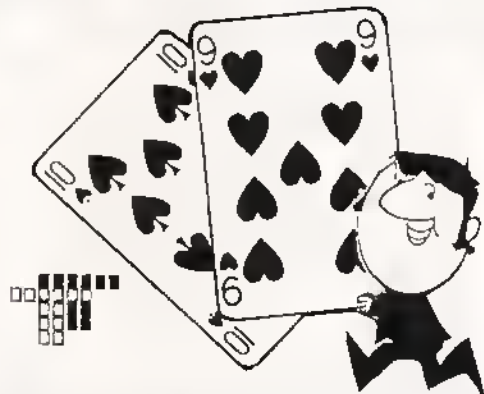
COMPUTING
Pockery Court, Church Hemborough
Oxford OX7 2AB 0993-881912

Plus

A FULL RANGE OF COMPUTER FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES IS SHOWN
IN OUR CATALOGUE WHICH IS AVAILABLE FREE UPON REQUEST

8000+ 4.

"DOUBLE T" PATIENCE



"DOUBLE T PATIENCE" IS A "DOUBLE T" PRODUCT FOR USE ON
AMSTRAD PCW COMPUTERS
A SUITE OF SIX GAMES REQUIRING VARIED
DEGREES OF SKILL AND LUCK

"Poker Patience, Foursome, Fourways, Pairs, Kuala Lumpur and One Foundation and an emergency cover up in case the boss catches you!"

8000 Plus - Addictiveness - 5 out of 5 marks. **5**
Price £14.95 incl VAT

Thurston Techniques, Thurston House,
18 Danby Terrace, Exmouth,
Devon EX8 1QS



Telephone or Fax: 0395 277496



SALE NOW ON

**3" CF2 DISCS FROM
£1.70 each DELIVERED**

(INC VAT NOTHING MORE TO PAY)*

Quantity	5	10	20	50	100
Unbranded 3	£9.95	£17.99	£35.50	£87.50	£170.00
Maxell Panasonic CF2 3"	£10.95	£18.95	£37.75	£94.00	£185.00
Right Plastic Library Cases	£2.50	£4.95	£9.45	£21.95	£39.95
Individually cased CF2	£13.95	£22.45	£44.00	£106.95	£209.00

All Discs Guaranteed

3" DISC DRIVE HEAD CLEANING KIT £4.95/QUALITY DISC BOX £7.95/RIBBONS £3.95

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR USED FABRIC PRINTER RIBBONS
- RE-INK THEM FOR 95p EACH or £1.75 PER 2 *

SAE For
FREE
Catalogue

FREE

ONLY £3.95 PER DISC
PRICE INCLUDES A
NEW 3" CF2 DISC *

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE, 70 DISCS IN LIBRARY

G/101 PRINTMASTER: Design and print
Greeting Cards, Calendars, Signs,
Letterheads and Stationery, Banners.
B/104 KEITH SIMONS COLLECTION:
Over 25 useful programs, educational,
business and entertainment, utilities.
GA/102 GAMES COLLECTION: Well
over a dozen entertaining games:
Battleships, Hangman, Pyrate,
MasterMind, Solitaire and many more.
U/110 DISKEDIT: Fully featured disc

editor and utilities and more!
U/107 PCW-DESKTOP: Calculator,
memo pad, appointments calendar,
database, home accounts and label
printer. All menu driven.

G/104 DIGI-PICS: An excellent selection
of 'ready made' pics for importing into
your DTP software. State which program
you use.

G/106 STOP PRESS GRAPHICS: 122
ready to use pictures

PLUS PROGRAMMING: LANGUAGES, UTILITIES, DATABASES, ASSEMBLERS, GRAPHICS,
BASIC PROGRAMS, GAMES, COMMUNICATIONS, TUTORIALS & HOLY BIBLE.

DISC FORMAT TRANSLATION SERVICE

3", 3 1/2", 5 1/4", CP/M, MS-DOS ONLY £3.95 DISC*
LASER PRINTING FROM 25p per PAGE COMPLETE DESKTOP PUBLISHING SERVICE

PCW-World User Group

COTSWOLD HOUSE, CRADLEY HEATH, WARLEY
WEST MIDLANDS B64 7NF



CALL **0384 66269** ANYTIME

*For orders under £50 add £1.50 postage & packing E&OE



BBD
• DUST •
COVERS

GET SMART!

BBD
• DUST •
COVERS

Protect Your Computing Equipment With BBD PROFESSIONAL DUST COVERS

- In today's economic climate where equipment failure costs time and money protecting your hardware from wear and tear is the smart thing to do and the smart way to do it is with dust covers from BBD Professional Dust Covers.
- Manufactured from top quality washable nylon and attractively finished with contrasting piping BBD covers are simply the smartest protective covers available.
- BBD covers can be washed and ironed without fear of fading or shrinking and will never crack or lose their shape.
- With all these superlative features you might expect BBD covers to be a little expensive. Nothing could be further from the truth.

AMSTRAD PCW 8256/8512: £11.95

In light grey with green piping. 3 piece set

AMSTRAD PCW 9512: £13.95

In ivory with green piping. 3 piece set

- BBD also offer a wide range of matching covers for the printers from only £5.50. These include Amstrad DMP 2000, 3000, 4000 and LQ3500, a wide selection from Brother, Canon, Citizen, Epson, Star etc., etc. Generally covers for 80 column printers are £5.50 and for 132 column £6.50

GET SMART! GET BBD! BBD DUST COVERS

The Standish Centre
Cross Street, Standish, Wigan WN6 0HQ
Telephone: 0257 425839 Ext 32 Fax: 0257 423909

DEALER ENQUIRIES WELCOME

**WORLDWIDE
SOFTWARE**

106A Chilwell Road
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 1ES

Tel
0602
252113
(24 hrs)

Tel
0602
252113
(24 hrs)

106A Chilwell Road
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 1ES

Fax No.: 0602 430477

All prices include VAT and 1st Class Post in the UK.

Export, Government and Education orders welcome.

3D Cyrus 2 Chess	£14.95	Projaxi	£49.95
AMX Mouse/Desktop Publisher	£58.95	Scapheghost	£14.95
Brian Clough Football	£14.95	Scrabble	£14.95
Bridge Player 2000	£11.95	Small Business Accounts (Cash)	£69.95
Bridge Player 2150	£21.95	Steve Davis Snooker	£13.50
Business Controller (Digita)	£59.95	Supercalc 2	£59.95
Classic Games 4	£14.95	Supertype 2	£12.99
Clock Chess 88	£11.95	Tasprint 8000	£12.99
Clock Chess 89	£13.95	Tassgrn	£24.99
Colossus Bridge 4	£13.50	Tasspell 8000	£13.99
Colossus Chess 4	£13.50	Tasword 8000	£19.95
Datascor 2	£33.95	Tomahawk (Helicopter Simulator)	£14.95
Graham Gooch Cricket	£14.95	Trivial Pursuit	£14.95
Hi Soft C	£38.95	PCW Challenge (Compilation)	£12.99
Hi Soft Forth	£14.95	(Art Combat Emulator, Sky War, Formula 1, Simp Poker)	
Hi Soft Knife Plus	£14.95		
Locoscript II + Locospell	£32.95		
Locofile	£28.95		
Locoscript 2	£22.95		
Masterfile 8000	£32.95		
Masterpack (Masterpaint + Masterscan)	£58.95		
Mini Office Professional Plus	£33.00		
Money Manager Plus	£28.95		
Payroll (Digita)	£29.95		
Payroll Plus (Digita)	£69.95		
Personal Tax Planner	£21.95		
Prosapill	£22.95		

Educational

**10 x CF2 Maxell Disk
ONLY £19.50**

Please make Cheques and Postal Orders Payable to



Worldwide Software



Credit Card Orders accepted by Phone or Mail.

COURSEMASTER The Computer Horseracing Program

- RATES ANY RACE IN SECONDS - ANY DAILY NEWSPAPER IS ALL YOU NEED
- NEVER out of date - Born to Hunt & Flat - Fast Data Entry
- AMAZING ACCURACY - Now you CAN BEAT THE BOOKIE!
- Works on the simple principle that FAST HORSES BEAT SLOW ONES!
- Clearly identifies best selection in every race plus these AMAZING features -
- First, Second and Third choice shown for Forecasts & Trebles etc
- Recommendations most suitable type of bet
- Actually works out your WINNINGS on most popular bets including SINGLES & DOUBLES, win and each way. PATENTS, YANKEES, CANADIANS, HEINZ etc
- GOOD EACH WAY and LONG ODDS bets clearly shown
- Will PRINT out your BETTING SLIP for you
- Maintain a BANK ACCOUNT - BET like PROFESSIONALS do! Records all your bets in any number of accounts. Keep a complete record of your betting or compare COURSEMASTER against your favourite tipster
- PLUS! - The AMAZING COURSEMASTER SYSTEM. This superb betting system is included in the program. A system which regularly produces huge wins from small stakes. Try it! It can pay for itself many times over on the first day!
- Supplied with 90 Page BETTING GUIDE and MANUAL

FREE HOT TIP OF THE MONTH TO EVERY PURCHASER

For more information call 0257 425839 or write to: Standish Centre, Cross Street, Standish, Wigan WN6 0HQ

• £19.95 inclusive

PERM-MASTER

- If you are one of those pool punters who regularly uses the perm plans for entering your weekly coupon, (as we all fitted) then this is often a pain to enter whether or not you have actually won. PERM-MASTER puts all end to that. With it you simply enter the number of points obtained for each of your selections, and PERM-MASTER does the rest. The program is supplied already with some of the top plans built in, but if your favourite is not there, then you can simply create your own, using the unique perm editor
- FAST and SIMPLE to use
- UNIQUE PERM EDITOR allows you to add plans not supplied. (Simply edit the file)
- For most BLOCK PERMS and SINGLE LINE plans. (Up to 25 selections)

Available as for POOLMASTER @ £17.95 inclusive

POOLMASTER

The Computer Football Pools Predictor

The amazing POOLMASTER program is by far the best Pools Predictor we have ever seen. In just 10 weeks of using this program ourselves, we won no less than 10 dividends, the largest being nearly £300. Mr T. C. Hammond from Essex won nearly £70,000.00 in just 16 weeks. In his own words, "it's a licence to print money". POOLMASTER is simple to use and requires only that you keep it a league table up to date using your usual newspaper.

The result of many years research into the Football Pools by the programmer Martin Evans of C.C.S., the program is a masterpiece of expertise, and is simplicity itself to use.

- Predicts Home, Away and Draws
- No fiddly typing in of team names etc and no redundant databases
- Instant read-out or Hardcopy if you have a printer
- Up to date league tables based on recent form home and away, league position, goals scored etc. It has long been realised that certain combinations of these factors return a much higher than average of draws than the laws of averages would expect. POOLMASTER looks for these factors and analyses their significance to give you the best possible chance of a win.
- Also has a Sequence Predictor option. Many people believe that certain numbers on the coupon come up more often than others, and over a season patterns do seem to develop. The program analyses these patterns and predicts the numbers most likely to come up next. Certainly more scientific than using a pin of family or daily numbers.

If you do the POOLS then this is the program for you.

Available as for Coursemaster @ £19.95 inclusive.

+++SPECIAL OFFER+++ SPECIAL COMPENDIUM DISK

CONTAINING BOTH POOLMASTER AND PERM-MASTER - £34.95
CONTAINING POOLS, PERM and COURSEMASTER - £49.95
BUY ANY THREE DISKS (OR TWO INCL COMPENDIUM)
AND RECEIVE PROFIT FROM YOUR MICRO ABSOLUTELY FREE

THE GRAPHOLOGIST

This program is a must for anyone interested in analysing their handwriting, or analysing other peoples. It is also very useful for analysing prospective employees' handwriting. To use the program, a sample of handwriting is obtained, preferably via a scanner. From the main menu of the program you will be prompted and guided to examine each detail of the sample. You will then be taken through deeper and deeper sets of sub menus, all prompting you for every detail of the writing, and the points to watch for, and add to the file if applicable.

Upon completion you are left with a disk file up to 15 pages long (depending on the depth of detail you choose), this file can then be edited within your word processor to produce a full report for the writer.

Upon completion you are left with a disk file up to 15 pages long (depending on the depth of detail you choose), this file can then be edited within your word processor to produce a full report for the writer.

analysis, so this could prove a very lucrative business venture for you. We must however stress, that unless you are experienced in graphology, then we can in no way guarantee the accuracy of the information that the program provides. If you are an enthusiastic amateur or just curious, then this program could provide hours of entertainment, whilst teaching you the finer art of this fascinating subject.

The text within THE GRAPHOLOGIST was researched and written by a top London graphologist/psychologist, James Woodward. The software was written by Martin Evans our consultant software writer.

Available for IBM PCs & Compatibles and Amstrad PCWs
@ £44.95 inclusive

CASHMASTER

Master your own finances. There is now no need to be frightened by accountancy software. CASHMASTER provides you with the easiest method yet invented to keep track of all your finances. Be you a business or professional individual, you are sure to need to know where your money is going. CASHMASTER will allow you to input all the necessary information per transaction in one simple operation, whilst allowing you to extract the absolute maximum from it all with an array of statements and reports.

- Features VAT analysis
- Easy, natural data entry. Just like a handwritten ledger
- Any amount of ledger files
- Ledgers can span any time period, there is no one year limit
- Reports can be produced over any time span (1 day to 100 years)
- 99/99 Class Codes (User definable) per ledger file
- 30/99 Accounts per ledger file
- Detailed statements showing balances (Selected accounts & classes)
- Profit & Loss Statements (Selected accounts & class totals)
- Logging of entries for end report selectively
- Items can be inclusive, Exclusive or Zero VAT or VAT can be just ignored
- VAT is entered automatically calculated and displayed
- Pop up running total calculator
- Entries can be deleted with just one key press (Standing Orders etc) Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly or Yearly
- Entries can be edited or deleted at any time
- Instant entries anywhere, CASHMASTER puts them in chronological order for you
- Reports directable to Screen, Printer or Disk file
- Detailed selectively for reports
- Reference field for each entry (Invoice No, Despatch Note No etc)
- 10,000 entries PC version, 9,900 PCWs
- No need for sorts, always in correct order
- All functions and operations available from main program screen
- Most functions operate from a single key press
- Scan through the ledger a line, or page at a time if required
- Split and merge files
- Class and Account code descriptions visible at all times. Scroll through pages of codes with one key press
- FREE separate running total calculator for adding up those cheques, useful for those quiet sums

WE APOLOGISE TO ALL OTHER SOFTWARE WRITERS AND TO ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS BOUGHT THE OTHER SO CALLED "EASY TO USE" PROGRAMS. CASHMASTER REALLY DOES DO THE JOB OF COMPUTERISED ACCOUNTING.

THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE

Not only superior to the competition, it's far cheaper too!
@ £22.95 inclusive

Available for IBM PCs & Compatibles & Amstrad PCWs



INTRASET LTD, (DEPT 8000+)
FREEPOST
NO 10 WOODSIDE AVENUE,
CLAYTON-LE-WOODS,
CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE,
PR6 7QF
Tel. 02572 76800

£ PROFIT FROM YOUR MICRO

- WHATEVER your MICRO is you can use it to make a good income!
- Even if you only have a couple of hours to spare each week
- We have put together a package of easy, sensible and practical business ideas which can easily be used by anyone with any micro
- No computer expertise required!
- Earn £££ from home doing what you enjoy doing - using your COMPUTER!
- Don't miss out which model!
- You probably already have all you need to start earning
- THOUSANDS of potential customers in your area who will GLADLY pay for your services. We will show you how to find them!
- Full step by step guide to EARNING MONEY FROM YOUR MICRO. FREE BUSINESS IDEAS CASSETTE TAPE WITH EVERY COPY

£12.95 inclusive

IF ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS
THINK WHAT YOU CAN SAY WITH

MICRO

Design

Read what the Reviewers have to say

"The manual is comprehensive, immensely friendly and will lead you where you want to go." "It takes about an hour or so to get on speaking terms." "The most un-artistic user should be able to produce basic illustrations."

FEATURES "It does everything you are likely to need in designing and laying-out your artwork." "The text you enter will automatically flow around the picture." "Very last - puts rivals to shame."

PRINTING "Knocks spots off the competition." "Far in excess of my hopes." "Extremely high resolution printouts which set the software apart from its competition." "Output is extraordinarily good."

THE ACCOLADES "Surpasses anything else - Does almost everything better - This beats the lot - Results are superb - Brilliant and sophisticated - Beats the opposition hands down - New lease of life for the PCW."

★ TYPESETTING ★ TEXT EDITING ★ PAGE LAYOUT GRAPHICS ★ FONT DESIGN ★ PRINTING

Runs on the PCW 8256, 8512 and 9512. Fully compatible with files from LocoScript 2, Protext, Wordstar, AMX Slop Press, The Desktop Publisher, Mini-Office Professional, Rombo Vidi Digiliser, MasterScan and other PCW software packages. Supports most popular Mouse systems and 9 pin, 24 pin and Laser printers, including the Star LC-10 Colour Printer.

Huge range of fonts (25 built in). Typesetters and Typesetting functions. Extensive range of Graphic Art and Design facilities.

MICRODESIGN II (£36.52 + VAT) = **£42**

With PCW Mouse and Through Interface (£71.30 + VAT) = **£82.00**

COLOUR BROCHURE ON REQUEST (Large SAE appreciated)

EXTERNAL DOT MATRIX PRINTERS

We have researched budget printers for you and we recommend the STAR LC24-10, the Citizen Swift 24 (has colour option) the Panasonic TKX-P124 with expanded buffer and the Epson LQ550

We no longer supply printers but will be pleased to supply the peripherals and accessories for your chosen printer.

Besides a printer, PCW 8256/8512 owners will need an Interface and a Printer Cable. We also strongly recommend LocoScript 2. PCW 9512 owners will require a printer cable. For all PCWs we recommend Locomotive's Printer Drivers Disc and/or the 24 pin Printer Drivers Disc for maximum compatibility with LocoScript 2.

PERIPHERALS AND ACCESSORIES

CABLES, PRINTER, Top quality PCW9512 to Centronics printer £7.95
PCW 8256/8512 (interface required) to Centronics printer £9.95
MODEM CABLE RS232 Interface Data Transfer to Modem £14.95
NULL MODEM CABLE Data Transfer Computer to Computer £14.95
"DONGLE" Adapts Export PCW to interface. RamPac etc £14.95
RIBBONS (including VAT, P&P) LC-10 £4.60 5+ £4.30 LC 10 Colour £6.90, 5+ £6.20 (also takes black for economy) LC24-10/LC24-15 £5.75, 5+ £5.25
AUTO Cut Sheet Feeder LC-10, LC-10C (£60+) £69.00
BBD Dust Covers (incl) 8256/8512 (grey 3pc) £11.45; 9512 (ivory 3pc) £13.45
STAR LC-10, LC-10C, LC24-10, LC24-15 (slate grey or ivory) £5.50
INTERFACES Parallel/Serial for PCW8256/8512 printer etc connection
SCA Professional, highly regarded, full featured (£40.87+) = £47.00
SCA Prot Plus, As above + real time clock/calendar (£50+) = £57.50
AMSTRAD CPS8256 (while stocks last) (£40.87 + VAT) = £47.00
MODEM PCW lineal V21/V23 Intelligent (£126.04 + VAT) = £144.95
MASTER SCAN * Optical scanner attaches to 8256/8512 printer head. Digitises most pictures to save for Graphics and DTP programs (£46.04) = £52.95
MASTER PAINT * Graphics package £13.95... With PCW MOUSE £57.50
MASTER PACK * Master Scan + Paint £55.95... With PCW MOUSE £97.50
PCW MOUSE (includes interface with through connector) £44.50

* Not suitable for the PCW 9512

NOW SUPERJOYCE

Shift into SuperDrive with the new SCA

RamPac

512K PLUG ON MEMORY EXPANSION

RamPac is suitable for all PCWs and simply plugs onto the back of your computer. Drive M will immediately increase from 112K to 624K on the PCW 8256 and from 368K to 880K on the PCW 8512 (including expanded 8256 models) and on the PCW 9512.

RamPac slots onto the expansion port at the rear of your PCW (export models will require the 'Dongle' adaptor). A through connector is provided for other peripherals such as a Serial/Parallel Interface, a Mouse, or MasterScan.

RamPac was designed in conjunction with Locomotive Software and has been fully tested by them for compatibility with the LocoScript 2 family. RamPac is compatible with MicroDesign 2, with Flipper and most other PCW programs. With RamPac Flipper can now be used with MicroDesign 2. With 880K in Drive M high density discs can be copied in one operation.

RamPac is available NOW but demand is heavy.

RAMPACK 512K Memory Expansion (£114 + VAT) =

£131.10

256K MEMORY UPGRADE

Upgrade your PCW 8256 memory to 512K with our best selling kit. Almost an essential for MicroDesign II and LocoScript 2 + disc copying.

Our simple instructions assume no prior knowledge, experience, or skills. We supply TOP QUALITY chips which are Jlg pretormed for ease of insertion. NO BENDING REQUIRED, plus a 'Practice' chip. Simply 'Plug in & Go'

★ PCW 8256 256K Memory Upgrade kit to 512K (£26.04 +) = **£29.95**

PCW DRIVES

3rd Brand New AMSTRAD/PANASONIC internal hitting 1mb (720K formatted) drives using CF2 discs, with simple instructions for DIY. Just "Plug in & Go" The FD2 (black front panel) and FD4 (ivory panel) are otherwise identical.

★ FD4 second drive for PCW 8256 and PCW 9512 (£107.87 +) = **£124**

★ FD2 second drive for PCW 8256 (as available) (£112.17 +) = **£129**

★ NEW 500K FD1 for 8256/8512 drive A service replacement (£86.09 +) = **£99**

★ NEW 1MB FD4 for 9512 drive A service replacement (£103.48 +) = **£119**

5 1/4" PACE external 40/80 track self-powered drive B for data transfer between PCs & single drive PCWs using TDOS s/w supplied (£116.52+) = **£134**

SAVE £5 on above when purchased with Memory Expansion

SOFTWARE

LOCOMOTIVE SOFTWARE. All new stock. Prices include VAT
For the PCW 8256/8512

Printer Drivers Disc	LocoScript 2.....	£21.50
(+Charkit).....	LocoSpell 2.....	£17.45
24 Pin Printer Drivers	LocoScript 2 + LocoSpell.....	£27.95
Locofont Set 1	LocoMail	£24.50
Locofont Set 2	LocoFile	£22.95

★★ LOCOFILE + LOCOMAIL - £40.50 ★★

For the PCW 9512

Printer Drivers Disc	24 Pin Printer Drivers	£20.95
(+Charkit).....	LocoFile	£22.95

For all PCWs: LocoFont 24 Text £23.50 LocoFont 24 Display £23.50

★★★ LOCOSCRIPT PC ★★★

Save over £25. INTRODUCTORY OFFER: £Phone
Lealiet available on request.

File Transfer Hardware, Software and Cables are available from us.
See this and next month's advertisements

Minimum order £10. Next day Courier Delivery £8.
Bold prices include VAT and UK post. Normally by return
Send cheques/Money orders: or Pic/LA/Govt orders to:



SILICON CITY

Dept 8, Wheal Rose,
Redruth, Cornwall TR16 5DR

Access/Visa orders: Telephone 0209 891141

(Coolchance Ltd)



FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Why restrict your writing prowess to your native shores?
Nick Vandome encourages you to think global!

As anyone who has ever put pen to paper or finger to word processor knows, this writing business is not only stimulating and rewarding (sometimes) but more frequently tickle, frustrating and downright annoying. Therefore, it seems to make sense for us beleaguered writers to try and make the most out of what we write and get the maximum mileage out of every article, short-story or block-busting novel. One of the best ways of doing this is to widen your market opportunities and duplicate your sales by writing for overseas magazines and newspapers.

Due to a somewhat misspent adulthood, I have had the

chance to travel to, and write in, several countries where there are numerous openings for freelance writers. However, you do not have to be an itinerant globetrotter to exploit the overseas market: even the most homebound writer can increase their income by selling their material abroad. The most important things needed are equally large quantities of patience and International Reply Coupons (IRCs - 55p. from the Post Office).

The initial step in writing for overseas markets is to identify the individual publications that exist. If you are not fortunate enough to be in a newsagent's shop in Sydney, Boston or Nairobi, then a visit to the local library might be your best course of action. Here you will find two books that should cover every area you are looking for: *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook*, (A. & C. Black) and the *Willings Press Guide*, (British Media Publications). The *Yearbook* covers all major newspapers in the Commonwealth countries while *Willings* lists the principal publications of the Americas, Europe, Australasia, the Far East, Africa and the Middle East. Although this sounds like a goldmine, a lot of the entries are for trade magazines and a more useful section is the one on UK agents for European magazines.

Sources of advice

Another tidbit of *Willings* is that it only lists the addresses of publications. If you are interested in writing for American or Australian markets (the two most lucrative areas) then it would be a good idea to get hold of: *The Writer's Market, US*, (Writers' Digest Books, F. & W. Publications, 1057 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45207, \$24, plus \$3 postage and packing), and *The Writers' Photographers' Market Guide for Australia and New Zealand*, (Australian Writers' Professional Services, PO Box 28, Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3001). Not only do these two books list the most useful markets for freelancers but they also include various trivial facts that a writer likes to know, such as editorial requirements and rates of pay.

Where, what and how?

Once you have the names and addresses of some potential markets the first thing to do is to resist the temptation to shove everything you have ever written into an envelope and send it off in the hope of finding instant fame and fortune. All this will do is create more work for the international postal service as it comes winging its way dejectedly back to you.

Patience is not only a virtue but a necessity when dealing with overseas markets and you should look at the task as a long, drawn-out campaign that might take months to come to fruition.

The first step is to send a covering letter, outlines of ideas for articles (up to about three at a time), any samples of your published work that you think are relevant, an SAE and an

Best bet abroad

In my own experience the best overseas publication for British writers to approach, in terms of range of subject matter, rates of pay and editorial courtesy, is the Australian magazine *TravelLeisure*, (PO Box 6495, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Queensland 4217), a glossy, 100 page publication that covers a wide range of issues.

Although it is principally a travel magazine I have written articles for it covering travel, conservation, education and witchcraft. The key is to find a topic that is different and to write about it in an upbeat, entertaining way. Seventy-five percent of the magazine is written by freelancers and the editor, Alexander McRobble, said, "We are strongly travel-orientated, but we also cover entertainment, leisure and lifestyle topics." (Personally, I am never quite sure what a lifestyle topic is but it seems to cover just about anything!)

Mr McRobble is also very much aware of the role freelancers play in the magazine, "The most dedicated staff writers can't encompass the range of experiences that hundreds of freelancers cover, so we value outside contributions. Apart from paying them well, we treat freelancers' submissions with respect. No matter how badly written an article may be (and we get dozens like that) we know that somebody's guts have gone into that work." This is backed up by a very helpful "Where you went wrong" sheet that is sent with all rejected articles.

Any article submitted to *TravelLeisure* will have a much better chance of success if illustrations are provided, preferably colour transparencies. As Mr McRobble said, payment is good for accepted articles, AU\$300 (£150) per 1000 words, and the cheques can be paid straight into British banks. One final benefit of writing for *TravelLeisure* - they maintain the very reasonable practice of paying for articles on acceptance.



Three Australian magazines which might look twice at whinging poms. *TravelLeisure* is the recommended journal.

IRC. Even with this careful planning, it is perfectly possible that your letter will disappear into the Great International Editorial Void but with luck you will get back an expression of interest or a commission. (If you are submitting an unsolicited manuscript, it is best to include two or three IRCs, depending on the weight of the MS.)

Perhaps the hardest thing for a writer, stuck in storm-swept Britain, to discover about overseas markets is what type of material will sell best. Basically, the answer is non-fiction and non-parochial. Travel articles are saleable almost anywhere in the world and even if you have never left the security of your own home town, it is still possible to put together a travel piece that would be of interest to people in other parts of the globe.

One very definite area is that of special interests or hobbies; be it flower-arranging, tiddlywinks or renovating Sherman tanks. If you have written for a special interest magazine in Britain, then there will undoubtedly be a comparable publication somewhere abroad and there is no reason why you should not offer your expertise to them.

Although you should not take for granted that the citizens of darkest Peru know all about your local football team, do not be afraid of writing about things that are very definitely British. People around the world still tend to think that the British are something of an eccentric bunch (probably with some justification) and there is a huge market for articles on our quirky habits. For instance, features on haggis-hurling or bog-snorkelling would certainly have a wide international appeal – although a little background information and explanation might be needed first!

Down under and the USA

In general, the best place for writers to concentrate their efforts towards overseas markets is the Queen of the Soap Operas, Australia. The reason for this is two-fold; firstly, except for the odd 'struth' and 'fair dinkum' they talk, and write, in a similar fashion to ourselves. This means that you do not have to worry about unusual spelling or grammar and you can write in exactly the same way as you would for a UK publication. Secondly, per capita, Australia probably has a wider range of magazines than anywhere else in the world. There seems to be an equivalent for every British publication, and with a quarter of the population this makes good odds for freelancers from overseas.

The American side of things is not quite so promising. True, there are thousands of potential markets (over 4000 in the Writer's Market) but the approach and style of many of them is a bit different to the UK. They go for a much bolder, 'grab you by the throat', approach and this should be kept in mind not only when submitting articles but also with query letters. There is no room for pussy-footing around so say what you mean and try your best to say it as punchily and as positively as possible.

African and Asian markets are unlikely to make you rich quick – some may not even pay you at all – but if you are planning a visit to any of these countries it would be worth getting in touch with the editors of the English language newspapers in these places. If nothing else, it may give you a contact in a strange country.

1992 and all that

The much advertised opening up of European trade markets in 1992 is not only going to be a time of celebration for the likes of Robert Maxwell; the humble freelance writer is also likely to benefit from the single market. With Europe being viewed as a single trade entity there will be every opportunity to increase sales throughout the European Community. This can be done either through syndicates or the personal approach. Syndicates covering Europe can be

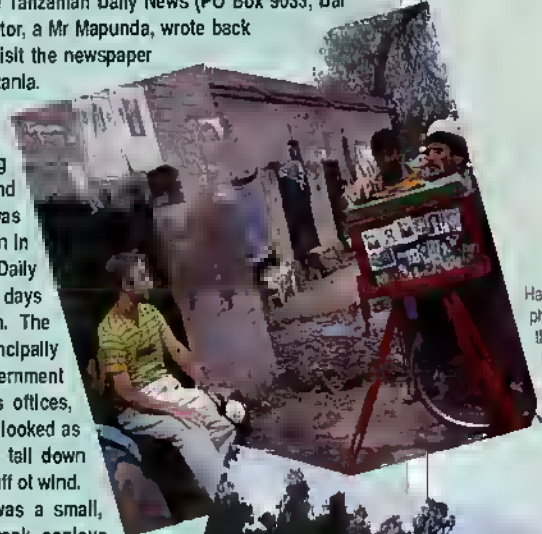
The Daily News, Tanzanian style

Before I left on my globetrotting venture I wrote to newspapers in various countries that I was going to visit. Of the replies the most useful was from the Tanzanian Daily News (PO Box 9033, Dar es-Salaam). The Editor, a Mr Mapunda, wrote back and invited me to visit the newspaper when I reached Tanzania.

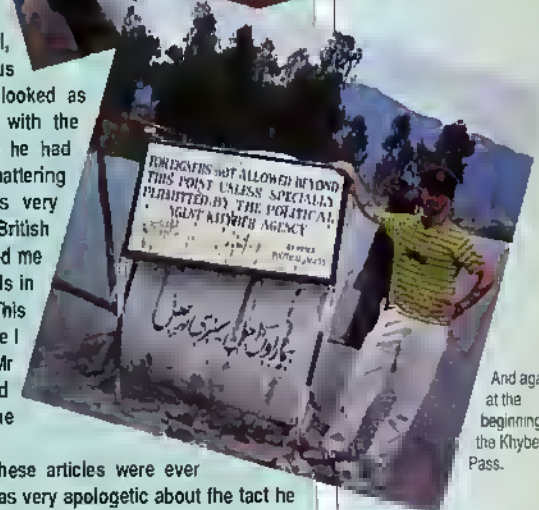
Dar es-Salaam is a city which is both unassuming and uninteresting and when I arrived I was glad of the diversion in the form of the Daily News as I had five days to wait for a train. The newspaper is principally eight pages of Government propaganda and its offices, when I found them, looked as though they would fall down with the smallest puff of wind.

Mr Mapunda was a small, quiet man who drank copious amounts of Coca Cola and looked as though he was disillusioned with the newspaper business because he had never unearthed a world-shattering scoop. Nevertheless, he was very enthusiastic about having a British freelancer in town and he asked me if I would write about my travels in Kenya and Tanzania. This occupied most of my time while I was in Dar' and then Mr Mapunda asked if I could send him articles from the rest of the countries that I visited.

I don't know if any of these articles were ever published, and Mr Mapunda was very apologetic about the fact he could not pay me, but for once this was the least of my concerns. As a result of the article I gained a useful contact in Dar es-Salaam and I saw a face of the city that I would have otherwise missed – just another advantage of writing for overseas markets.



Having my photo taken in the northern Pakistan town of Peshawar.



And again, at the beginning of the Khyber Pass.

found in the Writers' and Artists' Yearbook and they will generally take anything they think will attract a European editor. Boom subjects on the continent these days are business, information technology, science and medicine – so basically, if you can write about money generating subjects then you stand a good chance of generating some yourself.

If you want to approach European magazines on your own then the system is the same as for any other overseas markets, and this is where Willings comes into its own with its extensive list of European publications. Again, you are best to stick to more serious subjects (fiction is unlikely to sell well although the discovery of Hitler's diaries is usually a bestseller) and find out about translation services if necessary. (see margin note.)

With the world changing so rapidly around us, this is an ideal time for writers to exploit the limitless opportunities that exist from Lagos to Los Angeles. Not only may it bring in some welcome foreign cheques but it will also give you the chance to say that you are an international author!

(M)other tongues

If you are writing for European markets a translation may be required. Try your local college or The Institute of Translation and Interpreting 318a Finchley Road, London NW3 5HT (telephone 01 794 9931). They charge between £35 and £60 per 1000 words depending on the language and the technical content of the article.

SPEAKEASY

Brian Holley shows you how to discover your strengths and weaknesses as he takes to some serious SWOTting



Brian Holley looks at the essential ingredients that go together to make a successful marketing technique

With a certain amount of assistance from Westminster, 'marketing' became the byword of the Eighties and will certainly be a dominant maxim for the Nineties. One effect has been expensively produced pieces of coloured paper being shovelled into letter boxes daily by heavily laden posties. When you get a magazine home, the first thing you have to do is shake it well over a waste bin to clear it of debris. I've even started to get junk mail with my junk mail, so anxious are the marketers to get their message to me.

But marketing is not all bad. In fact, I find it a rather interesting subject. It is becoming a sort of imprecise science like sociology and psychology and, indeed, mixes these two with a smattering of low level statistics.

The first requirement, so they tell me, is to undertake a SWOT analysis. Nothing at all to do with the speed of your right arm swing. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The idea is that you make a list under each of these headings regarding your business. The word 'analysis' is added to make the process sound more complicated than it really is and thus impress both customers and competitors.

Consulting the oracle

Those who run small businesses sometimes make the mistake of thinking that marketing is only for the multi-nationals. It is a mistake that is probably a prime cause of failure on the part of many of the 90 per cent of small firms that collapse within five years of starting up. Knowing how to make a product or provide a service is one thing. Making your voice heard in the noise of the market place is quite another. I've often been amazed to see shops open in isolation from the rest of the world down a back street which nobody uses. It has been no surprise at all to see them shut down again a few months later. Similarly our local town broke out in a rash of pet shops last year. Only two survived. With a little market research these kinds of situations need not arise.

Three things are required to reach the market. The first is advice, the second training and the third, a system. There is a plethora of agencies offering advice for people running small businesses. Much of the help is free, some very reasonably priced.

Enterprise Agencies exist in all areas. They are designed to help small businesses get off the ground and wean them to maturity. The Small Firms Information Service has offices throughout the country and staff can offer expert advice and consultancy to both new and established businesses.

Getting in trim

In rural areas, the Rural Development Commission can offer advice, consultancy and financial help to get firms going and sustain them. In addition to these, of course, there are the banks and financial institutions all offering advice, though geared to marketing their own services.

A good place to learn about marketing techniques is the public library. Next stop is likely to be your nearest further education college. A local small business club may well run short courses or invite visiting speakers to meetings to discuss such important matters as marketing.

A colleague and I were recently on a course in which the information needs of each course member were identified. Over drinks in the bar we looked at each other knowingly. With a smile, my colleague said 'We've got it made' and the conversation moved to what sort of pay rises we might negotiate. You see, we both realised that between us we had access to most of the information the others needed.

Information is the foundation of good marketing and, as they say, 'There's a lot of it about.' A computer makes the collection and storage of information easier, and the PCW lends itself quite adequately and inexpensively to this task.

SWALK

A number one requirement is a good database to keep a record of customers and build a list of potential customers. This enables the small business to communicate regularly and effectively, thus reminding people that it still exists. I must admit to an aversion to personalised letters that are so obviously machine generated. These can be counter-productive as marketing tools, especially when they are written in such patronising terms as 'Dear Mr Holley, You may already have won £30,000 ...' and so on. This is a clear candidate for the recycling plant.

However, when done considerably and professionally, personalised letters are probably more likely to be read than impersonal circulars. Databases and mail-merge facilities come into their own here.

A finger in the wind

But marketing is not just about making as much noise as possible in order to be heard. It is essential that the 'noise' is monitored to see what effect it is having, and that there are also regular periods of listening in silence to what customers are saying.

Monitoring can be accomplished by harnessing the power of a good spreadsheet. For some firms, looking at the 'bumps and potholes' of a graph showing income and identifying how closely they reflect a promotion may be enough. For others, longer term measurements may be needed showing trends in business activity. Whatever the case may be, like every other business activity, its effectiveness should be ultimately measured in financial terms.

An ear to the ground

Listening to what customers say is rather more demanding. It often involves asking them what they think about the product or service. This activity is, in itself, a good marketing technique. People generally like to be asked their opinion so there is a promotional element in this activity.

Some people view the computer as a toy, others as a luxury, and for many small businesses, a computer is essential. If well managed, it facilitates the handling of large volumes of data and speedy communications. With a serial port and modem, the humble PCW can be connected to an enormous volume of business information with links to databases world wide. The computer is certainly a vital tool in the hands of the market-orientated business person. ■

FLIPPER 2 PLUS and expanded memory: now you can have your cake and eat it.

FLIPPER 2 was quite an unusual program. It could split your PCW's memory in two, letting you run LocoScript 2 in one half and a CP/M program in the other. Or it could let you load two CP/M programs at once, one in each half. It could even tackle tricky programs like Mini Office and LocoFile. Best of all it could FLIP you from one half to the other in as little as two seconds, any time you wanted. And it wouldn't lose your place.

Things have changed since we launched **FLIPPER 2**. Now you can buy an SCA or Isenstein Ram add-on and double your PCW's memory size at a stroke. That's why we've brought out **FLIPPER 2 PLUS**. This still gives you all **FLIPPER 2**'s

memory-splitting power, but it can handle extra memory as well. This means that, with an SCA or Isenstein 512K add-on fitted, **FLIPPER 2 PLUS** can cram two (very nearly) full-size 8512s or 9512s into one machine. You'll be able to load all your LocoScript 2 add-ons and dictionaries on one side of the machine, and still have room for a hefty CP/M set-up on the other. With power like that on offer, why compromise?

Please send me **FLIPPER 2 PLUS** for my:

☐ 8512 ☐ 9512 ☐ Expanded 8256

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £29.95

☐ I enclose my FLIPPER/FLIPPER 2 masterdisk and a cheque/postal order for £5.00

(Price includes UK postage and packing, and VAT. Please make all cheques payable to Software Imperative. Sorry, FLIPPER does not run on an unexpanded 8256.)

Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Mail this coupon to: **Software Imperative, 11 Chapel Row,
Queen Square, Bath, Avon, BA1 1HN**

FLIPPER 2 PLUS: still only £29.95.

Software Imperative, 11 Chapel Row, Queen Square, Bath, Avon, BA1 1HN, proprietor A.J. Wilton, tel (0225) 425315. PCW is a trademark of Amstrad plc, CP/M is a trademark of Digital Research, LocoScript and LocoFile are trademarks of Locomotive Software, Mini Office is a trademark of Database Software, Isenstein is a trademark of Isenstein Computer Systems.



LocoFont



Give your PCW some style

MODERN: After disconnecting the mains power...

OLD ENGLISH: The Old Antiques Shop, 27 The Square, West Street

PENMAN: It seems ages since I last wrote to you - and longer since we met...

ROMAN: The minutes of the meeting were accepted...

SANS SERIF: Taking this as our hypothesis, we can...

SCRIPT: We're glad to hear that you enjoyed the surprise party...

STANDARD: Please find enclosed confirmation of your order...

CAPITAL: FOR SALE: MINI 1000 - GOOD LITTLE RUNNER...

COPPERPLATE: You are invited to a housewarming party...

DECO: Avocado Pear with prawns

DEFINITE: We have been forced to adopt a tougher approach...

FINESSE: The fête this year will be held on the 10th June...

MINI 15/17: This package is supplied on the terms shown below...

MINI PS: A word processor provides a facility to create documents...

Please send me the following for LocoScript 2:

LocoFont for the PCW8256/8512 Printer

Set 1 - Standard, Sans Serif, Roman, Script, Copper Plate, Deco, Definite, Capitals, Finesse and Modern £19.95 ☐

Set 2 - Standard, Sans Serif, Penman, Old English, Mini 15/17 and Mini PS £14.95 ☐

Set 1 and Set 2 together £29.95 ☐

LocoFont 24 for the 24 Pin Dot Matrix Printer

Text Set - Roman, Definite, Capitals, Finesse and Mini PS £24.95 ☐

Display Set - Penman, Old English, Deco, £24.95 ☐

Script and Copper Plate

To use LocoFont 24 you need the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc £24.95 ☐

Name

Address

Postcode

Note: All prices include VAT and UK postage

☐ I enclose a cheque for TOTAL £

☐ Please charge my Access/Visa card EXP Date

Signed

Send to Katy Buchan at:



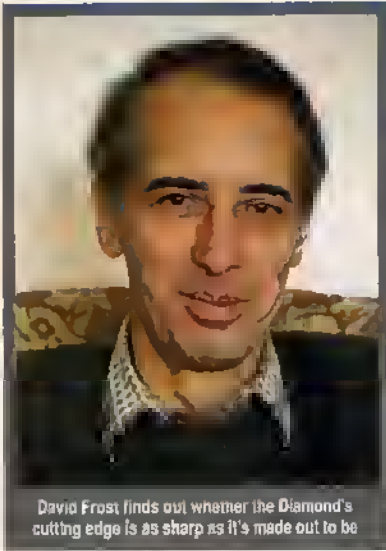
LOCOMOTIVE SOFTWARE

Dorking,
Surrey, RH4 1YL

TEL 0306 740606

RIGHT LITTLE GEM

Are Diamonds really forever? Nine months since its purchase, David Frost reveals what it's like living with Cirtech's Diamond hard disc



David Frost finds out whether the Diamond's cutting edge is as sharp as it's made out to be

Hard discs for the PCW are not new but, until recently, they attracted little interest because of their cost and the practical limits on their use. This has now changed and several manufacturers are offering discs which represent a real advance on anything previously available. Attracted by this recent flurry of developments, I bought a Diamond 32Mb (megabyte) hard disc from Cirtech in the autumn of last year.

The most difficult part of any project is the first month when one's experience is at its most incomplete and the problems seem to be at their most insurmountable. This was certainly so with the Diamond. It was easy enough to connect up and the installation procedure seemed to be progressing smoothly enough until I came to boot the programs. The sad truth of the matter was that neither CP/M nor LocoScript would work and I embarked on what was to prove a frustrating and expensive week of daily 'phone calls to Cirtech while the problem was sorted out. It eventually transpired that the Installation disc did not match the handbook which omitted one critical stage in the installation process.

Somewhat to my surprise the installation disc contained CP/M v1.8 and in following the installation procedure I ended up with versions 1.4 and 1.8 on the hard disc, which seemed to prefer the earlier version. This also took some while to bowl out. Overall it was not a terribly encouraging introduction to such an expensive piece of equipment and I came near to sending it back on more than one occasion.

Two drives for the price of one

The hard disc is divided into two drives, each with a 16Mb or 1024 file capacity. In LocoScript 2 you keep the A, B (if fitted) and M drives and the hard disc becomes C and D, with movement between the drives being exactly the same as for an ordinary PCW. Organising files needs more care than with 3 inch discs because with 8 groups per drive, you are limited in the number of major headings you can store files under. If you run CP/M programs as well as LocoScript you will need one or two groups for CP/M files, thus reducing the options still further.

Hard discs are generally, very reliable but even so you would be foolish not to make copies of important files and this requires more thought than before. Whereas with floppy discs it is simplest to make copies using DISCKIT or LocoScript 2's disc copy facility, this is no good with a hard disc. Files must be copied using LocoScript's file copy facility – which can be slow – or by using PIP.COM in CP/M.

The prospect of using CP/M commands may strike fear into the hearts of those who only use LocoScript but it isn't difficult. Loco files have an archive tag which enables you to copy only

those files which have been edited or created since the last copying session. PIP.COM can only be used to copy from one group at a time, so this means that each group has to be copied separately.

LocoScript group names, which are actually CP/M files of 0K, will also be copied. In practice this doesn't matter very much, though irritatingly, it can result in the group name on the back-up disc being different from the one you wanted. The LocoScript 2 [I4] Rename Group command doesn't work fully on 3 inch discs; you can use it to create a new group name, but you will have to remove all the unwanted group names from the disc using CP/M's ERASE.COM command. Type in DIR, to show the group names which are the files called GROUPNAME.GRP.

Using LocoScript 2

The Diamond disc will handle LocoScript 2 (but not LocoScript 1) and all its add-ons (LocoMail, LocoFile, LocoSpell and so on). Any files which were copied to the M drive from your start of day floppy discs will also be copied during the Diamond start up.

LocoSpell can be run either from the hard disc or M drive. I recommend the latter which is significantly faster, saving two and a half minutes on checking a 1250 word document. Putting the dictionary in group 7 of drive C will effect automatic copying to drive M if it wasn't on your start of day disc.

LocoFile datafiles are copied to drive M irrespective of where you keep them. However, this could result in overloading drive M. This can be prevented by changing the file type from FILENAME.DAT to something else – like FILENAME.DA. The change will not affect the cooperation of LocoFile.

What about CP/M?

In CP/M, the hard disc is divided into two drives called A and B, leaving your existing drives as C, D (if you have a second drive on the PCW) and M. Whereas with CP/M programs on floppy discs, little or no CP/M knowledge is needed, you will find that a nodding acquaintance with some of the simpler commands such as PIP, DIR, SET and RENAME is required in order to use the hard disc. The Diamond system requires the use of facilities which are not described in the Amstrad hand book, but which are satisfactorily covered in the

Keeping your options open

The Diamond disc uses SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface). This is an industry standard which makes it possible to use the disc with other computers provided you have the right interface cards or utilities.

Data storage capacity

At first sight, 32Mb seems a phenomenal capacity but it can be difficult to use all of this space effectively. Just how much is used depends on the number and length of the files you create. Files are allocated in units of 16k (compared to 1k or 2k on the 3 inch drives) equating to about two pages of 8000 Plus. Unless you like to write two or three page articles, waste is inevitable; if you do, then you can store the equivalent of about 100, 3 inch A drive discs.

If you are unhappy about wasting space, one way to solve the problem is to write several letters in a file, starting each one on a different page and grouping them by date or addressee. The maximum number of files is 2048, roughly equal to 18 single density 3 inch discs with short letters. 2048 files will more than satisfy most PCW owners but creators of longish files benefit most from hard discs. Quite a lot of space can be taken up by program files.

HARD DISC

accompanying Diamond hand book.

With floppy discs it is usual to run CP/M programs from group 0 and many PCW owners are probably unaware of the existence of other groups. In fact there are 16 (numbered 0 to 15) and if you run a lot of CP/M programs, you may find file management easier if more than one group is used.

Groups 0 to 7 are safe to use and correspond to the same groups in LocoScript; CP/M files in these groups will show in the same group in the LocoScript disc manager. Groups 8 to 15 are used by LocoScript for limbo files and if you use them for CP/M files, there is a real risk that when the disc becomes full LocoScript will erase them. It is easier, but not really essential, to segregate CP/M and LocoScript files in different groups.

Keeping tags

Most programs will automatically set an archive tag to indicate that a file has been copied. PIP can be told to copy only files without the tag.

The file manager – what it runs and what it doesn't

The Cirtech Diamond hard disc has a File Manager to simplify the use of CP/M programs and files. It is most certainly easier to use than the naked A> prompt. Files are listed alphabetically, so to make sure that the ones you use regularly are near the top, rename them by adding



The Cirtech Diamond hard drive - so hard that it makes 'Iron' Mike Tyson look like... er... Woolly Bob Wade

an A to the file name (for example, SC2 becomes ASC2). You can do this either from the hard disc's own File Manager, CP/M or from LocoScript.

Cirtech say the Diamond disc will run all standard CP/M programs but it seems not all CP/M programs are standard. Some will only run from the A> and others not at all as, the 'Will it? Won't it?' table shows.

If in doubt, copy the program to the hard disc and see if it will work. Some programs, Stockmarket for example, are, in effect, two separate programs and will have to be treated as such with ACCOUNTS.COM and PRICES.COM being booted individually. Watch for other oddities too. Stockmarket does not seem to recognise data files which

Will it? Won't it?

Program	From A>	From File Manager
Supercalc 2	Yes	Yes
Stockmarket	Yes	No
Investor	Yes	Yes
Market Merlin	Yes	Yes
Sharemaster	No	No
Cardbox	Yes	Yes
Money Manager	Yes	No

have an archive tag, so this must be switched off before running the program. You achieve this with the CP/M command SET.COM in the following manner:

(SET FILENAME.AC2{ARCHIVE=OFF}).

You don't have to have the hard disc running to be able to use the PCW. It can still be booted from a 3 inch start-of-day disc provided you press the space bar after the computer has beeped twice. The family's computer games fanatics are kept off the hard disc and have to boot their entertainment from floppy discs in the old fashioned way. This presents no problems and because of the nature of some games (for example, Head Over Heels) it wouldn't be possible to transfer copy protected software from floppy to hard disc anyway.

Should I buy one?

After all that, is it worth it? The saving in floppy discs falls well short of the cost of a hard disc and you will need some floppies anyway for back up purposes. Before splashing out the money look at the alternative of switching to a PC. Current discounts are very attractive and PCs with 20Mb discs can be obtained for under £600+VAT.

You will also need a printer (from £150+VAT) and software which is almost always much more expensive than its PCW counterpart. On balance it seems cheaper to stay with the PCW if you already have one. The Diamond hard disc will run with IBM PC compatibles and some other computers so if in the future you decide to change machines, the Cirtech hard disc can still be used.

The real saving for a PCW owner lies in the element of convenience. You can have all your programs on hard disc and swap from one to another without the hassle of fiddling with floppy discs. A cold boot to LocoScript 2 takes 86 seconds including add ons, LocoScript to CP/M takes 11 seconds and the reverse 75 seconds; all much faster than with floppies.

Although making back up discs sounds more complicated, the routine is easily learnt and is faster than backing up from 3 inch discs. CP/M programs like SuperCalc2 which are normally run from drive M for greater speed can be run just as quickly from the hard disc. The added speed and convenience of a hard disc over floppies has to be experienced to be truly appreciated. So why not try one out and see what you're missing?

● At the time of going to press, Cirtech inform us that their hard drive will now automatically boot from LocoScript 2 and CP/M. Supplied free with each drive, will be a LocoScript upgrade - version 2.28a for the 8000 series machines and version 2.29 for the 9512. Because it is not a standard CP/M program, Protext will only work with the drive with one proviso: there must be a floppy disc within the PCW's internal A and B drives; formatted blank discs will suffice. Happily, Armor are aware of the problem.

A question of port

The Diamond disc fits onto the expansion port. If you already use this for other hardware, Cirtech will supply a through connector at extra cost.

Copying with PIP

To make optimum use of PIP with the hard disc, you will need some facilities which are not described in the CP/M hand book supplied with the PCW. Files copied across as part of the installation process should have the archive tag set once installation is complete. Do this with the command SET A:.*[ARCHIVE=ON]. Replacing ON with OFF will do the reverse if you need to. PIP has to be told to copy only files which have been changed and also the group in which to look. Add A to the command to identify new or altered files and G followed by the group number to identify the group. For example C:=G:.*[AG5] will copy all new or changed files in group 5 of the B drive to the C drive. Despite what it says on page 79 of the CP/M hand book, do not put a space between the PIP options. Normally with CP/M you operate in group 0 but you can get into any other group by typing the drive letter, group number and a colon.

LOOK!

New low Prices

All prices
include VAT
& 1st Class
Delivery



01-744-1834

Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

Fax: 01-891-6260 (24hr)

CF2-3" DISCS

All branded and 100% Certified

**£19.95
for 10**

	10 off	30 off
Maxell CF2 - Double Sided for Single Drive	£19.95	£59.50
Maxell CF2 - D/S (individually cased)	£22.95	£68.50
Amsoft CF2 - Double Sided for Single Drive	£21.95	£67.50
Maxell CF2-D DS/DD for 8512 & 9512	£22.95	£68.50
Amsoft CF2 DD D/S D/D (Individually Cased)	£39.95	£115.95
Amstrad 3" Storage Box (10 Cap.)		£5.95
Lockable Storage Box (20 Cap.)		£7.95
Lockable Storage Box (40 Cap.)		£9.95
3" Disc Drive Head Cleaning Kit		£4.95

GAMES

Hitch Hikers Guide	£18.50
Mindfighter	£14.95
Catch 23	£14.95
Armageddon Man	£16.95
Ingrid's Back	£11.95
Clock Chess '89	£15.50
Bridge Player 2000 with Tutor	£12.50
Heathrow/Southern Belle	£13.95
Cyrus Chess II	£12.95
Fairlight II	£15.50
Batman	£12.95
Head Over Heels	£12.50
Matchday II	£11.95
Scrabble	£13.95
Tomahawk	£15.50
Knight Orc	£18.50
Corruption	£18.50
Steve Davis Snooker	£12.95
G.Gooch's Test Cricket	£15.50
Strike Force Harrier	£16.50
Jinxter	£18.50
Trivial Pursuits	£14.95
Scapeghost	£15.50
Bridge Player 2150 Galactica	£22.95



Guild of Thieves	£18.50
Pawn	£18.50
Starglider	£18.50
Tetris	£15.50
Time & Magic	£11.95
Ski Climb Cavern Colln	£11.95
Hop, Munch, Shoot Colln	£11.95
Classic Games 4 Comp.	£15.50
Brian Clough's Football Fortunes	£15.50
Frank Bruno's Boxing	£15.50
Lancelot	£15.50
Fish	£18.50
Leather Goddesses of Phobos	£18.50
The Living Daylights	£11.95
The Sun Cross Words V2	£15.50
The Times Cross Words V1	£15.50
The Times Cross Words V2	£15.50
The Challenge, 4 games - ACE, Formula 1, Skywar, Strip Poker	£11.95

LOCOFILE

8256/8512	
Locofile 9512	
Locomall 2	
Locoscript II + Locospell	£29.95
Locoscript II (V2.26+)	£21.95
Locofont 1	£17.50
Locofont 2	£12.95
24 pin Printer Driver 8/9	£21.50

£24.95

BOOKS

Locoscript 2 PCW 9512	£9.95
Locoscript, Locomall, Locospell	£7.95
Mallard BASIC PCW Intro & Ref.	£9.95
Mastering Amstrad PCW 8256/8512	£8.95
PCW Machine Code	£13.95
Program Your PCW (Mallard)	£8.50
Using The Amstrad PCW 9512	£9.95

FROM 25th MARCH 1990

Maxell CF2 (3" Disc) x 10	£19.95
Maxell CF2D (Double sided drive) x 10	£22.95
9512 Daisywheel (Style sheet available on request)	£5.95
GAMES SOFTWARE	
PCW Challenge (ACE, Formula 1, Skywar, Strip Poker)	£11.95
Heathrow / Southern Belle	£13.95
Catch 23	£14.95
Mindfighter	£14.95
DBase II	£65.95
Apex Business language (Italian, French, Spanish, German)	£49.95

APRIL SPECIALS!!

APPLICATIONS

£31.95

Mini-Office Professional Plus...

Master Scan + Paint	£69.95	Cracker II (Turbo)	£44.95
Crash Course Tutor (lansyst)	£22.95	Fleet Street Editor Plus	£44.95
Two Finger Conversion	£22.95	Supercalc II (Amsoft)	£42.95
Touch 'n' Go	£26.95	AMX Mouse + Stop Press v2.7	£79.95
Easy Labeler	£32.95	Money Manager	£44.95
Desk Top Publisher	£24.95	Master File 8000	£44.95
Sage Popular Accounts	£69.95	Protext	£52.95
Sage Popular Accounts Plus	£99.95	DBase II	£65.95
Sage Payroll	£51.95	Micro Design 2	£58.95
Sage Invoicing	£51.95	Re-release *** Mini Office	
Sage Popular Retrieve	£49.95	Professional Package	£27.95
Chit-Chat	£88.95		

DUST COVERS

£9.95

(3pcs)

8256/8512/9512

Anti-static, Water-proof, Creamy, Cover Set for Monitor, Keyboard & Printer.

PC15512/1640 (2pcs)	£11.95	PC2086 (2pcs)	£12.95
PC2286 (2pcs)	£14.95	PC2386 (2pcs)	£15.95

RIBBONS

£2.85 each

Highest Quality Guaranteed

	1+	3+	10+
PCW 9512 Carbon Multistrike	£2.65	£2.75	£2.65
PCW 9512 Black Fabric	£3.75	£3.50	£2.95
PCW 9512 Colour Fabric			
Blue Green Brown Purple	£4.95	£4.50	£3.95
PCW 8256/8512 Carbon Multistrike	£3.75	£3.50	£3.25
PCW 8256/8512 Black Fabric	£3.45	£3.00	£2.85
PCW 8256/8512 Colour Fabric			
(Red, Blue, Green, Brown, Purple)	£4.95	£4.50	£3.95
(Printer Ribbons for Star, Epson, NEC, Panasonic, Amstrad, DMP/LO, Juki M/S, Oume, Diablo, Brother, Canon/Taxan, Man/Tally, Shinwa, Commodore) P.O.A.			

EDUCATIONAL

(Age 12-15)

Physics		Magic Maths (4-8)	
Chemistry		Maths Mania (8-12)	
Biology		Better Maths (12-15)	
Micro English G.C.S.E.	£21.50	Better Spelling (12-15)	
Micro Maths G.C.S.E.	£21.50	Business Italian	£11.95
		Business French	
		Business Spanish	£49.95
		Business German	

MISCELLANEOUS

PCW Joystick Interface	£14.50	4 Way CEN36 Switchbox	£29.95
Quickshot II Joystick	£5.95	4 Way Serial D25 Switchbox	£29.95
Quickshot II Turbo	£11.95	Mouse Pad (Soft)	£5.45
Speed King Microswitch	£10.95	Mouse Pad (Hard)	£5.95
Parallel Serial Interface		Mouse Pad (Thick Rubber)	£5.95
Printer Cable Q25-CEN 36	£7.95	Thick Rubber)	£6.95
Printer Cable CEN36-CEN38	£9.95	9512 Printer Extension	
Margin Maker MM3	£12.50	Lead (1.8m)	£14.95
9512 Daisy Wheels	£5.95	8256/8512 Printer Extension Lead	
2 Way CEN36 Switchbox	£19.95	(2 pcs) (1.8 m)	£19.95
2 Way Serial D25 Switchbox	£19.50		

A to Z Computer Services

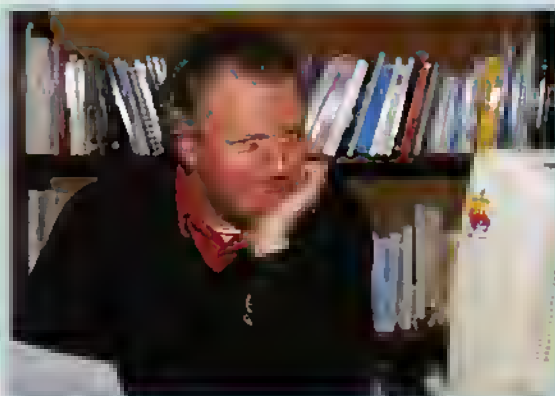
49 Heath Road, Twickenham, Middx. TW1 4AZ



* Quantity order discount please ring
* Education, Govt. Authority Official Orders welcome Min £50
* Prices are for Mail Order only and subject to change without notice.
* COMPUTER PRODUCTS FOR PC's, AMSTRAD, CPC, ATARI, AMIGA, BBC ALSO AVAILABLE.

CONFESSIONS OF A FREELANCE

London-based copywriter Ian Pemble spreads the word on his PCW



Ian Pemble, freelance writer, says "Gawd bless the PCW, guvnor."

For 18 months I earned a good living entirely from my skill as a writer – and entirely on my Amstrad PCW8512. Apparently this is unusual. Then the Pound fell against the Dollar and knocked the bottom out of the Lawson and I needed a job. Over the next three months, I learned to use three different computers and only my warm relationship with my PCW gave me the courage to do it. This is my story.

According to a commonly misheld opinion, successful full-time writers are supposed to use great, throbbing IBM clones upon which they can also spread their sheets and data their bases. In other words, it is assumed – and this is the real calumny – that PCWs are only for amateurs. Rubbish of course.

I can't teach you anything new about using your PCW. I've had mine for almost two years and it was only during the writing of this very piece that I discovered that the [F1] menu in LocoScript's disc management screen allows you to

change disc without turning the whole thing off and on each time. But what I can do is offer encouragement to those of you who also write – some of tomorrow's famous writers are already bashing out the business on machines like yours and mine.

Joker in the pack

Now of course I am not at all famous, nor likely to be, because I have been earning my money writing recruitment advertising copy. However, some years ago, I was the editor of *Knave*, one of those publications that are coyly known as 'men's magazines'. We won't dwell upon why I took the job or why I gave it back again. What I will say is that during my reign, I managed to throw out most of the dreary, sex-related drivel that passes for writing in these publications. I encouraged any writers who came along to write humour instead. Ah, the power ...

In fact I was quite shameless. I banned sex completely from the monthly short story. Consequently, this became much sought after by writers.

A couple of years later, the word got round that I was going to go freelance – albeit as an advertising copywriter – and several colleagues from my *Knave* days rallied round and invited me to a science fiction convention in Exeter – where I met even more writers.

I already had an 'electronic typewriter'. Electronic meaning that the keys could jam twice as fast as a manual machine. So I decided I needed a word processor. And who better to ask for advice than all those nice writers I'd met and become bosom buddies with in Exeter?

Market research

Professional writers seem to fall into two categories when it comes to high-tech writing machines; there are those who actually want a powerful computer to play with – and which they also happen to write on. And then there are those who want a glorified typewriter which does what it's told when it's told to and gives no lip.

In the first category, I found Terry Pratchett (author of the *Discworld* series of books), who is a confirmed computer buff. He was enormously helpful, spending hours on the phone spelling words like 'PC' and '80386SX' – and then scared me bitless by assuring me that I couldn't lay my hands on anything decent for under £2,000.

I then turned to a chap called Neil Gaiman who is now a top writer for *DC Comics* and destined for much greater fame still.

"Oh you need an ICBM TurboThruster GCHQ007," he explained as to a child. "They only cost three grand. But don't take my word for it, talk to the bloke who recommended it to me – Terry Pratchett."

Two down, where do I go next? Well I'd like to have called Iain Banks. I had drunk deeply of his wisdom and hipflask at the convention and we had got on famously. And

Jobsworth

Every recruitment advertisement consists of the same basic elements: the job title, a bit about the company, a bit about the job and a bit about the person they'd like to do it. Then there will be a salary/benefits paragraph and another telling you how to reply. It's perfectly possible to write a decent, effective advertisement using this formula.

My job is to go one better. I sometimes have to attract people to low paid jobs, by stressing the attractions of the job to the sort of person who might like it. Then again, I may have to target people who are not even looking for a job, highly-trained, much sought-after executives who may only be browsing through the job columns.

Every other advertisement on the page is telling much the same story; you've rarely got more than 250 words to play with and the same six elements must go in every time. Thankfully there are art directors in this world too, so between us we can think in visual terms as well – but it's certainly a highly disciplined field for a writer to work in.

I suppose it's a bit like composing crossword puzzles, they all look the same on the surface. Or maybe a poem is a better example. Every word in a poem is there for a purpose, and part of that purpose is to get the meaning across clearly and succinctly – often within further confines such as metre or rhyme. And yes, I do write poetry.

he'd also said he used an Amstrad but ... I'd lost his phone number. I would like to be able to tell you that *The Wasp Factory* (his first best-selling novel) was written on a PCW – but alas I cannot swear to it.

From the horse's mouth

Then I did what I should have done all along and called Paul Barnett. Paul is a writer's writer. Not because he writes under an assumed name (John Grant) but because he's always busy, always writes beautifully and works tirelessly at organising write-ins, conferences, cricket matches and anything else that improves the lot of his fellow scribes.

"What you want," he said, "is a PCW."

"What's that?" I cringed.

"About 500 quid."

"Gawd bless you gov'nor."

"But don't take my word for it, talk to the bloke who recommended it to me – Dave Langford."

It might come as a shock for some of you to learn that your cuddly columnist is really quite famous outside these pages – or that he actually looks like that drawing of him.

Learning curves

So I enjoyed 18 months of happy motoring from my PCW and did very nicely thank you. Then I managed to upset my main client, without realising that I had done so and at what turned out to be an economically disastrous moment. This time my journalist friends rallied round.

One friend was about to join a West Country firm of publishers, leaving his London-based magazine without a Managing Editor. Maybe I could run it for a couple of issues as a freelance? The only thing was, it was a magazine about computers. Well, I'd used the PCW and half a dozen other word processor systems, so I should be able to pick it up relatively quickly. I took the job.

The magazine was for PC enthusiasts, so I had to learn how to use a PC to receive copy and pictures on 5.25 inch floppies. This meant calling up and photographing any screen-shots as well as exporting the copy as an ASCII file.

"It's a simple routine, I'll write it down for you," said my friend reassuringly.

"Exporting the copy where?" I asked.

"Into the Apple Macintosh – that's where we do all the desktop publishing."

I suddenly realised that my first introduction to computers was like being oversubscribed on a blind date. Not just one computer to grapple with, but two.

PC meets WC

I never learned those 'simple routines' and always used the notes. Besides, I was too busy getting to grips with my Macintosh. Normally this wouldn't have been a problem. It is incredibly easy to find your way around a Mac, indeed the purists criticise it for using up too much memory rolling on its back to have its tummy licked.

A few months later I found myself working as a Saturday sports sub-editor (or just plain Sub to those in the hacking trade) on one of the best new Sunday broadsheet newspapers. This used yet another computer format called the Atex system. If the Macintosh operating system is supposedly the most friendly ever made, Atex must surely be the least.

It's got a keyboard that wouldn't be out of place on the flight-deck of a Jumbo jet. I recognised the QWERTY formation in the middle but then there were all the extra keys – banked left, right and across the top – which were supposedly 'shortcuts'.

Shortcut One: you are in the Head (the display menu at the top of the screen) on the Command line. You want to call up an internal file. You type in a 'Queue enquiry' using the file name and press 'Execute'. Then you call up the story using a

I lived a lie as a computer expert

In my time I've written hundreds of apparently successful advertisements for computer professionals, from Programmers to Senior IT (Information Technology) Consultants – and I've barely understood a word.

There's no big trick to it. You receive bundles of bumph on the jobs including all the technical stuff. Anything you don't understand you repeat exactly (perhaps with a deft, creative comma) on the assumption that the people you are talking to will understand it, so why should you?

I never made any secret of this, yet I've come to be looked upon as something of an expert in the field. Whereas now I can talk intelligently about computers for at least ten minutes, then I would have been pushed to manage three. Funny old game, isn't it?

slightly different code, press Execute again ... and there it is.

Shortcut Two: you are in the Head again. You want to call up an external file. You tab once to a section in the Head called 'Wire'. You delete the asterisk that lurks therein and type in the name. Then you press Execute and the machine replies 'File not found'.

Fancy you being silly enough to press Execute and expect the machine to actually execute! What you do is press the Supershift button in the bank to the left of the Shift button (remembering proudly that pressing the two together is called Hypershift, only you can't remember what that's for) and then you press the blank button 2 which is to the right of the button labelled 'Fix'. No I don't know what Fix does, I never had time to find out.

The homecoming

Meanwhile, the advertising work had popped up again, so for the first time in months I was back in front of the PCW. I was a little nervous. Would it seem clumsy? Not after Atex of course, but some of the word processor software I'd been using on the Mac had been pretty sophisticated and impressively expensive to boot. Not only that but also with the Macintosh you do have to use a mouse.

This is fine for moving pictures and text around once you've managed to get them on screen, but not so good for typing in the stuff in the first place – unlike the (far less expensive PCW and its far less expensive word processing software) the Mac has no [LINE], [PARA] or [PAGE] buttons for instance. So you find yourself taking your hands off the keys all the time to reach for the rodent.

In the past few months I have sat in front of more computers than I ever dreamed of – and now dream of more computers than I've ever sat in front of. But I still prefer my rusty old PCW. It's familiar and comforting. A simple keyboard with everything where I expect to find it. No complicated key combinations to remember. No mouse to distract me. And lots more potential if I ever decide I need a 'real' computer ... which I doubt. As you've probably gathered by now, I still have mixed feelings about 'computers'.

A Poem

Books have always been
written by hand.
Whether desktop fast or
copperplate slow.
Except for Uncle Tom's Cabin,
of course
Which was written by Harriet
Beecher-Stowe.

Last stop

Just to finish, I present the Ian Pemie guide to good reading. Book prizes are normally pretentious affairs, full of in-jokes and incestuous nominations. So here are just a few of the works by writers I have known and rubbed shoulders with.

The Discworld Series by Terry Pratchett,
published by Corgi Books. Soft backs at £2.99 each.

Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman,
published by Gollancz. Hard backs at £12.95

The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks,
published by Futura. Soft backs at £3.99

Consider Phoebe by Iain M Banks (the same chap),
published by Futura. Soft backs at £4.99

Dunning

COMPUTER SERVICES

DEPT 8, 32 Granville Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 2AH

All prices INCLUDE DELIVERY -
Just add VAT at 15%. Cheque/PO's with order or phone
using our credit card hotline. All orders despatched same
day whenever possible.



(0202) 431762



we're busy cutting prices

RIBBONS

For the PCW...

	1off £	2off £	5off £
Fabric			
8256/8512 std. life	3.44	6.48	14.74
8256/8512 extra life	4.30	7.78	17.35
9512 std. life	3.44	6.48	14.74
9512 extra life	4.30	7.78	17.35
Fabric colours (red, brown, green, blue)			
8256/8512	4.30	7.78	17.35
9512	4.30	7.78	17.35
Multistrike			
8256/8512	3.44	6.48	14.74
9512	3.44	6.48	14.74
Also....			
Citizen 120D	3.44	6.48	14.74
Epson LX86/66	2.47	4.70	11.11
Epson FX/MX/RX 80	3.44	6.48	14.74
Star LC10	3.44	6.48	14.74
Star LC24-10	3.50	6.65	15.75

.....and many, many more.

We have ribbons for 1000's of printers -
If yours isn't listed, give us a call!

.....AND ALSO

	£		£
Printer Stand	8.65	Mouse Pad	4.30
Copy Holder	9.90	3" drive cleaner	3.43
Monitor Filtersfrom	11.85	Ribbon Refresh	9.90
		Envelopes.....	P.O.A

DISKS

3" MAXELL CF2 10 for just
£18.99 5 for £9.99

3" DISK STORAGE BOXES

Quality lockable boxes	£
30 capacity.....	8.48
60 capacity.....	10.96

CONTINUOUS PAPER

	500	1000	2000
11x9.5	£	£	£
60gsm	7.60	11.20	15.60
70gsm	8.20	12.30	16.81
80gsm	8.80	12.60	18.38
90gsm	9.10	12.75	19.20
2 Part NCR	14.20	20.13	-
11.66 x 9.25 (A4 Size)			
70gsm	9.30	12.70	18.84
80gsm	10.80	13.60	22.27
90gsm	11.30	14.64	23.27
2 Part NCR	18.50	30.90	-

DUST COVERS

Smart, anti-static and machine washable - top quality.	£
8256/8512.....	10.39
9512	12.13

COMPUTER LABELS

Avery brand - the best!

	1000 £	2000 £
1 ACROSS		
2 3/4 x 1 1/16.....	4.05	6.96
2 3/4 x 1 7/16.....	4.93	8.48
3 1/2 x 1 5/16.....	4.33	7.39
3 1/2 x 1 7/16.....	5.37	9.52
3 1/2 x 1 5/16.....	7.79	12.96
4 x 1 5/16.....	5.09	7.78
4 x 1 7/16.....	6.09	9.96
4 x 1 15/16.....	7.80	13.09
2 ACROSS		
2 3/4 x 1 5/16.....	3.73	6.39
2 3/4 x 1 7/16.....	4.51	7.61
3 1/2 x 1 5/16.....	4.15	7.13
3 1/2 x 1 7/16.....	5.37	9.52
3 1/2 x 1 5/16.....	7.79	12.96
4 x 1 5/16.....	5.19	8.04
4 x 1 7/16.....	6.09	9.96
4 x 1 15/16.....	7.65	12.78
3 ACROSS		
2 3/4 x 1 5/16.....	3.51	6.23
2 3/4 x 1 7/16.....	4.39	7.51
3 1/2 x 1 5/16.....	3.69	6.36
3 1/2 x 1 7/16.....	4.87	8.48
3 1/2 x 1 5/16.....	6.73	11.46
4 x 1 5/16.....	4.71	7.13
4 x 1 7/16.....	5.69	9.66
4 x 1 15/16.....	7.51	12.68



PCW-ToolKit has long been the leading disc recovery tool available for the PCW. Specially designed, it makes full use of the PCW's screen and keyboard to allow *anyone* to recover damaged discs and lost data easily.

Now, Version 2 is available! Both the program and the manual have been improved to make recovering all of the most common types of damage even easier.

Would you wait for a fire before buying an extinguisher? Of course not! Buy ToolKit *now*, and discover what it can do *before* you next get that "Missing Address Mark"!

PCW-ToolKit still costs just **£24.95**

How much is YOUR data worth?

Other Disc Utilities :

MFU - Use other CP/M formats, PC and BBC discs on the PCW! £49.95

2in1 - Transfer files and discs easily between your PCW and PCs! £49.95

External Disc Drives :

3.5" or 5.25" Disc Drive for PCW8256/9512 - £139.95

Switchable 5.25" Disc Drive for PCW8512 - £169.95

Please write or phone for more details and our catalogue.

All prices shown include V.A.T. and postage within the U.K.

E&OE

MOONSTONE

COMPUTING

Strathclyde Business Centre

Clyde Street

CLYDEBANK G81 1PF

Tel. 041 - 941 - 3120

MAKE THE GRADE

Sick of not being able to use large programs on your 8256? Tim Smith shows you how to transform the standard PCW into a turbo nutter machine

The top end of the PCW range – in the form of 9512 and 8512 machines – always seem to receive the attention. We've talked about RamPacs which will give you megabytes of memory, we've paid heed to the larger of the LocoSpell dictionaries. So now it's about time to look at the grand daddy, the original, the front-runner in PCWs – the 8256. Before the proud owners of 512k machines flip these pages to read about careers in computing or type in a listing, there could be something here for you. After all, do you really know how your chips are stacked? And wouldn't you like a quick look into the workings of the B: drive?

On the up and up

The PCW 8256 is so-called because it packs a punch of 256k of memory. But nowadays this just does not seem to be enough. Equally, its single disc drive which stores 173k of data on each side, pales in comparison to the B: drive of its

bigger comrades which store up to 706k. One of the joys of having two drives is that file transfers can be luxurious events during which you sit back and watch two red drive lights flickering as the data whizzes from one disc to the other. No more changing discs every two minutes. If you upgrade the memory as well, you would be able to copy an entire A: drive disc without taking it from the drive.

There are two ways of upgrading your PCW8256. The first (and safest) is to contact Dictaphone on 0926 429124. These are the people who have official clearance from Amstrad to fiddle around inside your PCW. Another good point here is that using Dictaphone will not invalidate your guarantee. For prices and details on this, see margin.

The other way of pepping up the PCW is to do it yourself. This should work out cheaper, is not as difficult as it might seem and is an excellent way of gaining some insight into the workings of your machine.

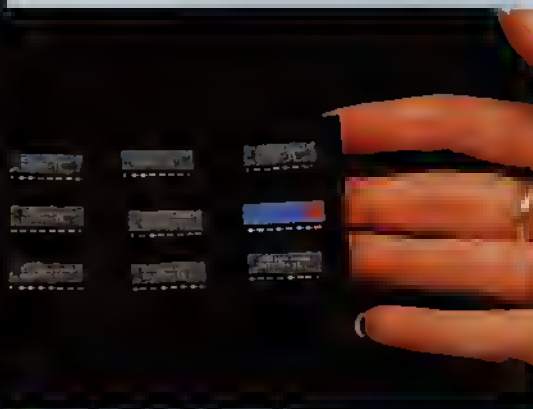
1 CP/M Plus Amstrad Consumer Electronics plc v 1.4, 61k TPA, 1 disc drive, 112k drive M:

A)■

1 BEFORE: A common-or-garden PCW8256 startup screen running under CP/M. You may ask what a TPA is, why drive M: only has 112k of memory when there was supposed to be 256k. Well, the TPA is the Transient Program Area or, in layperson's terms, the place in memory where programs are executed. 61 from 256 leaves 195. Of course CP/M (and LocoScript) needs somewhere to live and uses up 83k. 83 from 195 leaves 112 and that is the size of your M:(emory) drive.

2 These chips were provided by Silicon City. Eight of them are required to convert the 8256 to an 8512, giving you 32k a chip. In the not too distant past you would have been lucky to get a home computer with 32k of memory let alone 512k!

2

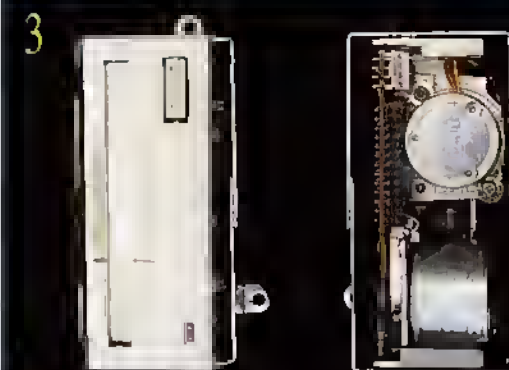


3 The 3 inch drive, also courtesy of Silicon City. It's all very well having a massive memory, but you will also need to store more information permanently. The normal A: drive disc allows you to store up to 173k of data while a double density B: drive gives you a massive 706k (formatted).

4

CP/M Plus Amstrad Consumer Electronics plc v 1.4, 61k TPA, 2 disc drive, 368k drive M:

A)■



4 AFTER: With all the work done, you can sit back and look at the glory of your new, porkier, power-packed PCW. The TPA remains the same but the size of the M: drive has more than trebled to 368k. What's more, you also have two disc drives. Now all you need do is add a RamPac, a 3.25 inch drive, a 5.25 inch drive, a hard disc, and/or RamPac... and the list goes on and on.

Don't do it yourself

If you are at all unsure about carrying out these upgrade procedures and your PCW is still under guarantee, then Dictaphone Ltd will carry out all the work for you. Not only that, but they'll do it in the comfort of your own home. They carry out three types of upgrade:

Drive only £149 (plus VAT)

Memory £89 (plus VAT)

Both £199 (plus VAT)

All of these prices include parts and on-site fitting. Dictaphone need all requests for upgrades to be received in writing. There is a four to six week waiting period in which the company will order the parts and find their way to your house. The address to which you will need to write is: Dictaphone Company Ltd Parkhouse 10 Park Street Leamington Spa Warwickshire CV32 4XF

Cost of living

Here's the information you all want to hear, how much will it all cost? Here is a selection of prices available at the time of going to press. And don't forget the art of the haggle if you're thinking of getting both chips and the drive.

Memory upgrades

Silicon City	£26.04 (plus VAT)	0209 891141
West of Britain	£37.00 (plus VAT)	0558 823782
RSC Ltd	£36.00 (plus VAT)	0923 243301
SK Marketing	£49.00 (plus VAT)	01 3816618

Second drives (FD4 1mb drive)

Silicon City	£107.87 (plus VAT)	0209 891141
West of Britain	£113.00 (plus VAT)	0558 823782
RSC Ltd	£115.00 (plus VAT)	0923 243301
SK Marketing	£115.00 (plus VAT)	01 3816618

MEMORY UPGRADE

Whether you have an 8512, 8256 or 9512 you all have one thing in common ... chips. So now it's time for a quick guide to these beasts. Computers used to be massive edifices with scientists and engineers rushing around them, pandering to their every whim and, if need be, hardwiring them. This process is as brutal as it sounds, it entails physically altering switches or – at the extreme – changing the connections.

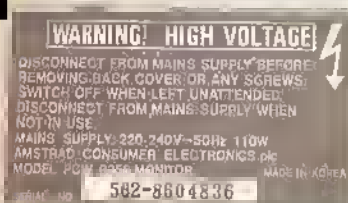
A few guidelines should be followed when dealing with chips. Bearing in mind that you have paid out good money for them you should avoid any chance of static electricity contact

with them. Some people advise earthing yourself by touching a radiator or such-like piece of metal before going near the chips you are about to fit.

Next, the sixteen legs which attach the chips to the PCW's board are delicate. To lose one of these would be akin to amputating one of Nijinsky's and still expecting him to win the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe or dance Swan Lake.

In most cases you will be provided with a practice chip which does nothing other than to give you the chance to see how to do damage. Make good use of this chip and learn from your mistakes.

1



SED

1

The first thing to do is to switch off your PCW at the mains. The machine will store some residual voltage which will remain in the copper wires leading from the monitor. If you are in doubt, it might be an idea to leave the PCW off over night. To actually get inside your PCW you will need to remove the six holding screws at the back of your machine. Lay it down on a blanket or rug (even an Armeni jacket would do) on a flat surface and take a cross-head screwdriver. Remember to keep all the screws together!

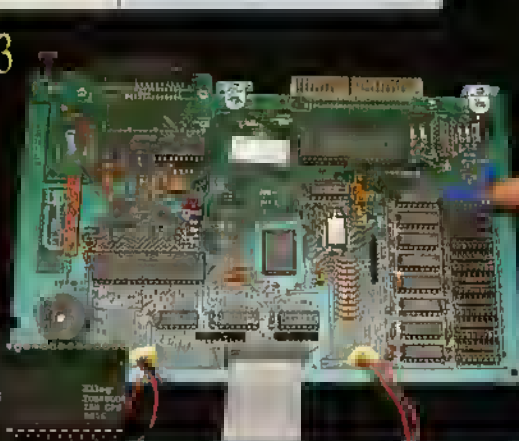
2



3

Follow the finger and you will see a rather garish looking blue chip. No stock-exchange jokes here, this is the practice chip. Fitting this should allay any fears you might have had about the real thing. The best way is to gently rock the chip from front to back until it slides into place. It provides no extra memory, in fact it serves no purpose other than to make you feel more comfortable. Try it in each one of the eight free slots – if nothing else it will clear out any gunk which might have clogged them up.

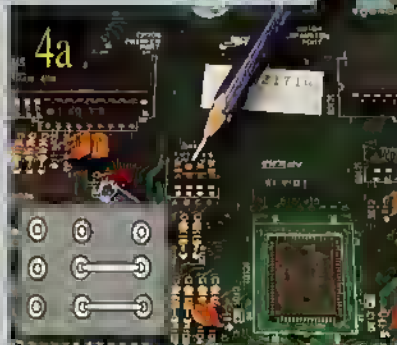
3



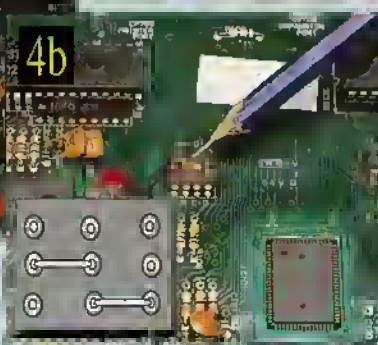
2

The board itself. This is the heart of the machine and must be disconnected from the innards of the PCW. The two small (one blue, one white), four pin connectors are for the keyboard and video (screen) cables and these should be gently lugged out. The large grey (four pin) connector is the power cable and needs some patience (probably a little help from a flat-head screwdriver for leverage) in order to disconnect it from the board. Be very careful when removing this not to bend the board. Once these have been dealt with you will have to disconnect the A: drive. This entails pulling two cables; one grey ribbon and one coloured (orange and black) four-way power-lead from the drive. Be sure to make a note of the alignment of the larger cable. You can either do this by observing the direction of the small plastic nodule on the side of the connector or ... by remembering which way the writing was facing.

4a



4b



5



4

On your board, if you look closely, you will find four tiny, yellow dip-switches. These have to be altered with a pencil end – or some very small, sharp fingers. At one end of the small box in which the switches live is a helpful sign saying 'ON'. You will see that the switches are set in the following manner:

A=ON, B=OFF, C=OFF, D=ON. What you will need to do is reverse A and B and leave C and D alone. This will leave you with the following settings:

A=OFF, B=ON, C=OFF, D=ON.

If your PCW was made before 1985 you will need to do some soldering. See the diagram for this.

5

Once you feel comfortable with the process of fitting the practice chip. It's time to move onto the real McCoy. At one end of each chip is a small semi-circular indentation. Look at the chips already fitted and note which way the indentations on these are facing. Make sure that the new set are facing in the same direction. Take your time and whatever you do, DO NOT FORCE THEM! This can't be over-emphasised. Remember Nijinsky and the damaged legs. If you do bend one of the legs you will have to, very gently, attempt to straighten them out. Do remember to tell the PCW that it has been upgraded (see 4a and 4b).

Once you have altered the switches and made sure that each one of the chips is securely in place, you are ready to reconnect the leads and replace the board. Remember that the two edge connectors (for the printer, which is the smaller one, and the larger expansion edge) go towards the top of your PCW. All this done and the back secured in place, you should now have a 512k PCW!

Congratulations. You will see this when you either boot LocoScript or CP/M (CP/M will actually tell you that you have a 368k drive M:). If, by any chance, you don't get the message then re-try the fitting operation, making sure that all the chips are securely home. If this doesn't work, contact your dealer – some of the chips may have been faulty.

DRIVE UPGRADE

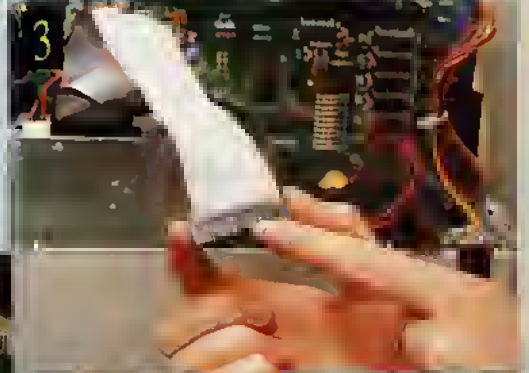
The PCW8256 is a friendly machine. It does its best while trying to carry out your every whim. But the more you use the machine, the more you want from it and the faster you want it. After a while a B: drive becomes essential. Unlike some other computers which look super-fast-smashing but take a degree in Applied Engineering and a large bank balance to upgrade, the PCW is a kitten. A B: drive will cost you around £115 (plus VAT) and fitting it merely requires a cross-head (Philips) screwdriver, some patience

and a little time. Once the additional drive is in place, you will have the ability to store up to 706k of information on one disc. You will be able to store large databases, dictionaries and possibly a good sized novel.

By the way, when you read that a new B: FD4 drive is capable of holding 1 megabyte (1024k) of memory, this actually means unformatted. A formatted disc, with a directory area, will give you the 706k of data storage. So now, without further ado, here's how to fit it.

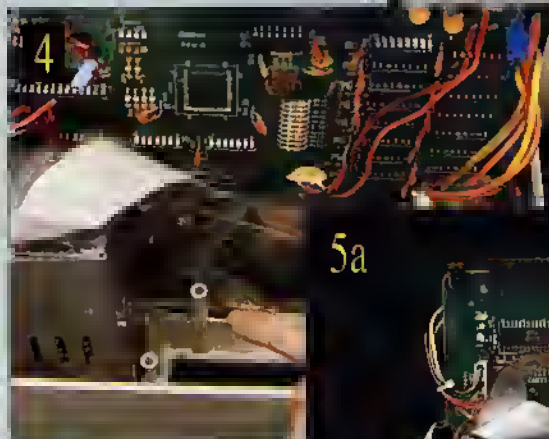


1 Before removing the back of the machine, disconnect it from the mains. Please refer to the previous page for details. Hold back with the screwdriver. You will need to remove the covering and plastic protector from the lower drive casing. The sticky metal covering can be prised off with a sharp knife (and then recycled to make some exotic jewellery). Then we reach the most irritating part of the whole procedure. The protective piece needs to be cut away from the casing by cutting through the six securing nodules. These then need to be lifted down leaving a smooth surround. If they are not, you will have trouble keeping the new drive flush with the casing.



3 Look at your A: drive end note the orientation of the small plastic nodule in the middle of the large black connector (the one on the end of the grey ribbon-cable). The ribbon connector on your new B: drive should have its nodule facing in the same direction.

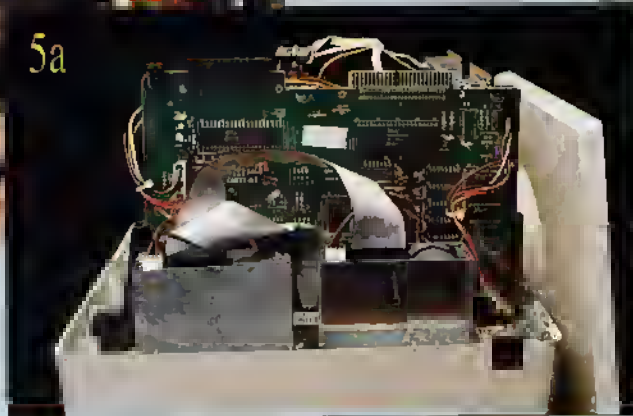
2 Tied together with a plastic loop are the two leads which you will need to connect the new drive. Snip the loop and free the leads. You will see a ribbon cable with a male connector and a four way lead (black and orange) with a white, four-pin plastic connector. The former is the vehicle for all the information while the latter is the power cable.



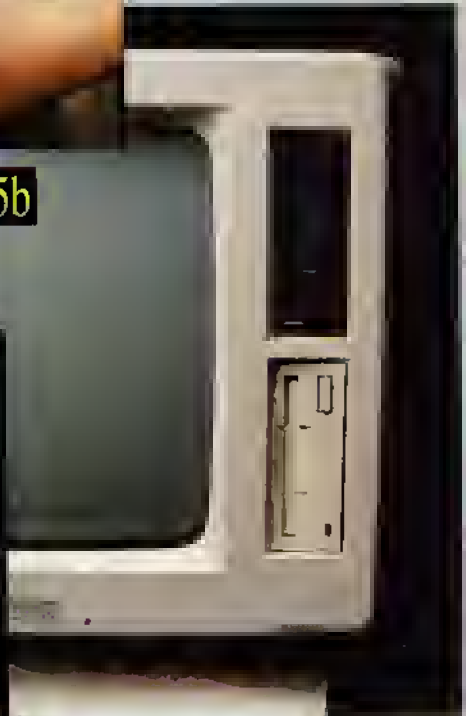
4 You will need to secure the drive in place. The best way to do this is to thread the three screws into the lugs provided on the side of the drive and then slot it place. Although there are six long, plastic tubes provided to affix the drive, you will only need to use three of them.

5b

5a



5 Once the drive has been secured all that is left is to make sure that it fits flush to the casing, refit the back of your PCW and away you go. By the way, before using the drive you will need to remove the card which is there to protect it while travelling.



One problem we had when fitting a new B: drive was the fact that the A: drive start-of-day disc we had been using corrupted when used to boot up the new system for the first time. This might be because we fitted the B: drive incorrectly (which, even though we say so ourselves is highly unlikely as the PCW is now working like a dream) It is more likely that there is some kind of power surge

when booting for the first time. As always, make sure that you have backed up your start-of-day discs – that is to say that you have made copies of the copies of your master discs. Aside from this, the entire process should take you an hour. After this your PCW will be ready to do your bidding, faster and with greater capacity.

IT'S A RESCUE TAKE

The 9512 is a snob. For years it has refused to talk to the 8256. That is unless you have the 9512 Rescue Kit. Steve Mayer examines this peace-maker

9512 RESCUE KIT

£9.95 • Three Inch Software • 01 5462754

The computer industry is often seen to revel in incompatible hardware and software and, unfortunately, Amstrad provide no exception. Not only are the PCW disc drives completely different from the rest of the computer world, but there are two different types. The 8256 and the A: drive of the 8512 read and write to discs which are single-sided, have 40 tracks on each side and a formatted capacity of 173k. On the other hand, the 9512 and B: drive of the 8512 use double-sided, 80 track discs with a storage capacity of 706k.

In fact even the other two machines in the world of

disc drive or buy an 8512. The Rescue Kit's prime attraction is that it enables the 9512 to format and write to low capacity discs which can be read by an 8256. In other words, it provides the missing half of the 8000 COPY utility which enables 8256 discs to be copied to 9512 format.

Rescue Kit is simplicity itself to use, presenting you with a menu at each stage. To copy a file from an 9512 disc to an 8256 disc, you choose this option from the menu and are then asked to name the file, which can include wildcards ('s and ?s). This means that any number of the files can be copied at once. You can then say whether you want to copy files from User group 0, exclude LocoScript Limbo files or copy everything to all groups. Apart from a prompt to change, that's all there is to it.

Unfortunately Rescue Kit fails to carry out any error checking. If you copy a file of the same name and group onto an 8256 which contains a file of the specifications, you get a real mess with both of them mixed up together. No, you can't delete the original one first as there's no erase file facility included. Worse still, if the disc is write-protected, the PCW goes into a sulk from which it won't emerge until you re-boot it.

F A B Mr Tracy

Rescue Kit does provide a couple of other useful facilities. It will format discs in lots of ways, allowing them to be read by the Amstrad CPC or Spectrum (Amstrad) +3 computers. It will even allow you to format one side of a disc with 40 tracks and the other with 80 tracks.

The final utility enables some programs written for the 8256 to be run on the 9512. The ones which often cause problems are those which write to the disc or which auto-boot (load by simply inserting them into the drive when switching on). Rescue Kit will try to convert this type of program so that it works on the 9512.

The notes accompanying Rescue Kit warn that success is not guaranteed as the program could run on modified CP/M or could be write protected. We tried it with two auto-booting games and on CP/M start-up disc, none of which worked, so it looks as if they are right!

The SOS banned

Rescue Kit is itself write-protected so you can't make a back-up. Clearly piracy is always a problem. But it is not a comforting experience to have to use the master disc. However, Three Inch Software will replace a faulty disc.

As far as the accompany documentation is concerned - it's all on disc. It does tend to repeat itself, which is no bad thing and there is plenty of it.

Generally then, if you don't want to spend around £120 upgrading your 8256 but need to use a 9512 as well, the 9512 Rescue Kit might serve your purposes.

select the format you want to use, by pressing a key

- A - 80 track PCW9512 single sided disc (360k - fill spare sides of discs)
- B - 40 track PCW8256/8512/Spectrum +3 single sided disc (180k)
- C - CPC 40 track DATA disc (maximum 706k - full disc 1000k format)
- D - CPC 40 track VENDOR disc (SYSTEM disc without system data)

Just how many disc formats can one PCW produce? The CPC (options C and D) is the PCW's games-playing kinsman cousin, while the Spectrum +3 (option B) another games disc, the was once 8000k but is now 1000k.

PCW9512 Rescue Kit v1.4 ©1988 Three Inch Software

Pressing M:.* to make space

Insert a suitable starting disc in drive A and press

- A - Convert a PCW8256/8512 (180k) autoboot disc to a PCW9512 autoboot disc
- B - Format a single sided (180k or 360k) disc
- C - Copy files from a PCW9512 disc to a single sided (180k) disc

The main purpose of the Rescue Kit is to get 8000 series PCWs talking to 9512s and vice versa. Options B and C appear to do this with no trouble at all. Option A, however, is slightly less reliable.

computers which do use 3 inch drives won't pay heed to the PCW series without some effort. The CPC, which was the precursor of the PCW (and a games machine at heart) can be made to read PCW discs. The Spectrum +3, which was bought from Sir Clive Sinclair by Amstrad won't have anything to do with the PCW. Luckily both formats are catered for by the Rescue Kit. We quite happily read from a CPC Protext document.

8512 owners have the best of both worlds as they can use both types of disc. 9512 owners can read to both but can only write to the high-capacity, 80-track kind. The poor 8256 owner comes off worst only being able to use the low capacity discs.

Not waving but drowning

But help is at hand - and you don't have to attach a new

9512 RESCUE KIT

Pluses

- ▲ Easy to use
- ▲ Lots of disc formats

Minuses

- ▼ No error checking
- ▼ Can't make back-up

RANGE OF FEATURES	4/5	EASE OF USE	4/5
PERFORMANCE	3/5	DOCUMENTATION	4/5
8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT		15/20	



S K MARKETING

COMPUTER SUPPLIES

10 Fulham Broadway, London SW6 1AA. Telephone 01 381 6618/9 (24hours)

**LONDON'S LARGEST
REGISTERED
AMSTRAD DEALER**

FAX: 01-381 0528

Personal callers welcome
Opposite Fulham Broadway
Tube Station - District Line

**COMPARE OUR PRICES BEFORE ORDERING FOR
UNBEATABLE OFFERS!!**

Export, Government and Educational orders welcome

All prices Excl. VAT
Carriage Free/Mail Order
(UK Mainland)

BRITAINS BEST SELLING WORDPROCESSING RANGE

AMSTRAD PCW 8256

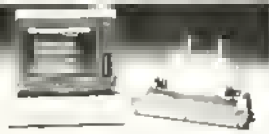


- Fully integrated word processor system
- 82 key Keyboard
- 256K RAM
- High res. screen
- 180K 3" disc drive
- 9 pin dot matrix printer
- 90 CPS in draft 20 CPS NLO
- Locoscript software
- CP/M Plus with GSX & Dr.Logo
- Mailard Basic with Jetsam

£320

On-site maintenance please add £30.00

AMSTRAD PCW 8512



- Fully integrated word processor system
- 82 key Keyboard
- 512K RAM
- High res. screen
- 1x 180K + 720K3" drives
- 9 pin dot matrix printer
- 90 CPS in draft 20 CPS NLO
- Locoscript software
- CP/M Plus with GSX & Dr.Logo
- Mailard Basic with Jetsam

£405

On-site maintenance please add £30.00

AMSTRAD PCW 9512



- Z80A processor
- 512K RAM
- 3" 720K drive
- 82 Key Keyboard
- High res. paperwhite monitor
- Wide carriage bi-directional daisy wheel printer
- 20CPS single & tractor feed
- Locoscript 2 software includes Locospell & Locomail
- CP/M Plus with GSX & Dr Logo
- Mailard Basic

FREE SHEET FEEDER WITH PCW 9512

£435

On-site maintenance please add £30.00

AUTOMATIC SHEET FEEDER

The ASF9512 is an automatic sheet feeder for use with the PCW 9512. It will hold up to 30 sheets of paper enabling letters to be printed unattended, thereby releasing the user for other tasks and improving productivity. The Sheet Feeder can be attached or removed in seconds, leaving the printer to accept individual sheets of paper or the standard tractor assembly.



£75 ONLY

ACCESSORIES PCW 9512

Vortex 40MB Hard Drive £499.00
CPS 9512 AMSTRAD RS232 £49.00
P/S Interface £49.00

SKM 256K to 512K Memory Upgrade Kit with fitting instruction P.O.A.

FD4 Second Disk Drive 8256 £115.00

SKM SPECIALS

PCW Dust Covers (3 piece inc) £10.00
3" Drive Cleaning Kit £9.50
Margin Maker £10.50

PCW RIBBONS

PRINTED	QTY	QTY	QTY
AMSTRAD	2"	9"	10"
PCW 8256 9512 NYLON	£4.80	£4.00	£3.50
PCW 8256 9512 CARBON	£4.75	£4.50	£4.00
PCW 8256 9512 COLOUR	£5.00	£4.75	£4.50
PCW 9512 NYLON	£3.50	£3.30	£3.00
PCW 9512 CARBON	£4.75	£4.50	£4.00

AMSTRAD PCW MAINTENANCE KIT

PCW PRINTER 8256/8512



£14.00

DAISYWHEELS FOR PCW 9512

AVAILABLE TYPE STYLES

PRODUCT CODE	TYPEFACE
Courier 10	Prestige Pica 10
Recla 10	Orator 10
Letter Gothic 10/12	Prestige Elita 12
Script 12	Mini Gothic 15

Each £6.00

For other printer ribbons please call

BOOKS (no VAT payable)

Mailard Basic By Amstrad £9.95
Programming PCW By Ian Sinclair £7.95
All In One Mini Office Professional £11.50
Desktop Publishing with the Amstrad PCW £9.50
Locoscript 2 by Ian Sinclair £9.95
Locoscript 2 Amstrad PCW £11.95
Locoscript - Mail - Spell £7.95
Looking into Locoscript 2 £13.95

3" CF2 DISCS FOR AMSTRAD

SKM SCOOP

CF 2 per 10	£22.00
CF 2 per 20	£42.00
CF 2 per 30	£63.00

AMSOFT

CF 2 per 10	£24.00
CF 2 per 20	£45.00

WORDPROCESSING

Prolexi	£40.00
Locoscript 2	£22.00
Locoscript 2 with Locospell 2	£28.00
Locospell 2	£18.00
Locomail 1 & 2	£26.00
Locomail 1	£17.00
Locomail 2	£13.00
Locofile	£25.00
New Word II	£42.00

ACCOUNTS

Sage Accounts	£58.00
Sage Accountant Plus	£86.00
Sage Invoicing	£40.00
Sage Payroll	£40.00
Money Manager	£24.00
DG Payroll	£26.00
Map Integrated Accounts	£90.00

EDUCATIONAL

Better Maths (Age 12-16)	£14.00
Physics (Age 12-16)	£17.00
Chemistry (Age 12-16)	£17.00
Biology (Age 12-16)	£17.00
Better Spelling (8-Adult)	£14.00
Magic Maths (Age 4-8)	£14.00
Maths Maths (Age 8-12)	£14.00

GENERAL & UTILITIES

Sage Chli Chai	£69.00
Easy Labeller	£21.00
Crash Course Typing	£20.00
Two Fingers Typing	£17.00
Data Fax	£32.00
E-Type	£18.00
Personal Tax Planner	£20.00

DOT MATRIX PRINTERS

Star LC10 Multitext Printer	£150.00
Star LC10 Colour Printer	£185.00

PANASONIC PRINTERS

Panasonic KX-P1124	
Draft - 160 cps, NLO - 63 cps	£265.00
Panasonic KX-P1180	
Draft - 132 cps, NLO - 38 cps	£165.00

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

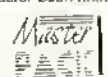
Fleet Street Editor Plus	£39.00
Stop Press	£29.00
Stop Press + AMX Mouse	£54.00
Micro Design II	£50.00
Database Software	£20.00
Database DTP + AMX Mouse	£57.00

SPREADSHEETS

Supercalc 2	£40.00
Cracker II (Turbo)	£40.00

GRAPHICS

Master Scan	£49.00
-------------	--------



MasterScan and
Master Paint
£55.00

DATABASES

Sage Retrieve	£40.00
Master File 8000	£35.00
Database II	£60.00
Datasore II	£29.00
Cembase II	£32.00

Mini Office PROFESSIONAL

Very successful - many new features
5 separate programs - Wordprocessor
● Database ● Spreadsheet ● Graphics
● Communications Interactive

OUR PRICE ONLY £25.00 + VAT

ACOUSTIC HOOD FOR YOUR 9512



**SKM's most economic solution to
noisy printers**

- Up to 90% noise reduction
 - See through lid keeps noise in and dust out
- Hood and Stand £99.00 only**
Now available to accommodate
9512 with Sheetfeeder
OUR PRICE
£120

LEISURE SOFTWARE

Cyrus Chess	£12.00
Colossus 4 Chess	£14.00
Balman	£11.00
Tomahawk	£13.00
The Pawn	£17.00
Trivial Pursuits	£14.00
Head Over Heels	£10.00
Ace	£14.00
Match Day II	£12.00
Telms	£14.00
Clock Chess	£14.00
Sieve David Parker	£11.00
Classical Games 4	£14.00
Time 2 Master	£10.00
Brian Cloughs Football	£10.00
Colossus Bridge	£12.00
Mindlighter	£15.00
Living Daylights	£14.00
PCW Challenge	£12.00
Times Jubilee Crossword	£16.00
Sun Crossword 2	£14.50

Please ring for availability

MODEMS

AMSTRAD V21/V23

Features 1200/75, 75/1200, 300/300
Baud rates..... **£99.00**



Export, Government and Educational orders welcome

**SALES HOTLINE
01 - 381 - 6618**

**24 HOURS
ANSWERPHONE
FOR CREDIT
CARD ORDERS**



**ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT
CARRIAGE FREE!!**

All prices subject to change without notice.
All goods subject to availability

PERSONAL CALLERS WELCOME 9.30 - 5.30

10 Fulham Broadway, London SW6 1AA
TEL: 01-381-6618/9 FAX: 01-381-0528

MEET FELIX!

Pete Gerrard reviews another handy little utility for you and your PCW

FELIX

£26.95 ● Amstrad Professional User Group

● 091 510 8787

If you are looking for a program file which could be on any one of 26 discs, you will usually find it after you have typed DIR 52 times. To make matters worse, it is also quite possible that the program will have been stored in group one, which is not ordinarily revealed by a simple DIR search, and so you would have to venture into LocoScript and wear out the writing on the F1/F2 key by continually pressing it when you change discs.

Faced with this perennial computing problem, an engaging chap called Robert Milne decided to write a program called Felix, which is short for the Filename and Extension Lister and Indexer, alias Felix The Cataloguer. Judging by the telephone

conversation that I had with him, he probably wrote the program while escaping from a daughter who seemingly never stops watching videos of the antics of the Neighbours from Ramsey Street. Kylie and Jason's loss is our gain, for this is an admirable computer product.

BASIC listings

There was a minor worry to begin with when I found that I couldn't copy the master disc using the CP/M utility known as DISCKIT. Being the sort of person who is loath to use a master disc at any time, I resorted to LocoScript and copied the files individually, hidden ones and ordinary ones alike. Onto this new copy, you are advised to store some CP/M utilities and, if you've got room, BASIC as well. I soon found that BASIC had to go, and we'll see why later.

The first time you use the program, it is simply a matter of entering BASIC and running Felix. There are three options available from the first menu that appears, and these are to quit, use something called File Finder, or enter what is termed the Catalogue

Builder. There is no point in choosing anything yet, and pressing C takes you to another menu. Here you can sort things out so that they are best suited to your computer system, be it an ordinary 8256, an 8512, a 9512, or anything in-between. The manual explains everything in a cheerful sort of way, so even the novice shouldn't encounter any problems when configuring a

system for the first time.

Now we're coming to the main point of the program, which is to build up an index of all the files on all your discs. The Jetsam tiling system is used, which means that all operations are carried out at lightning speed.

Number those discs

Being a humble 8256 owner, I altered nothing and proceeded to wend my merry way through the program. Felix assumes that all your discs are numbered, and after asking you to choose which group file areas you want to use (0 to 15 are available, but I never put anything on a group further on than group 3, so 0 to 3 was my choice) you are politely told to insert disc number one. Both sides are catalogued and all the files picked up, and then it's on to disc number two. I ended up using 10 discs on the first run and then came back at a later date to add another 10 discs. All are now labelled with numbers from 1 to 20.

Now we can use the File Finder option that I mentioned earlier. There are many ways of looking for a file. You can enter a whole name, the part before the dot or the part after the dot (as in BASIC.COM, so you could search for BASIC.COM, BASIC or COM), or, most useful of all, just a fraction of a file name. Suppose I was looking for this review after writing it and then going off and doing something else, so that I could print it out. I know it's on one of the 20 discs somewhere, I know I put REV in the title as a short-hand for REVIEW, but I can't remember the full name. No matter, just instruct Felix to search for all the files containing the three letters REV somewhere in their name.

File-finder

Seconds later, I am told that the Felix review is contained in group 1, side 2 of disc 3, and my days of spending more time than necessary searching through an endless array of discs in order to find a file are numbered. Providing, that is, that you remember to copy your index from where it is stored on drive M over to drive A before switching off the computer! There's a utility to help you.

Having now used the program extensively, and altered the files on some discs and added others to the list, I can only find two flaws. One is that there isn't a printout option for a permanent reference, and the other is that storing 20 discs takes up 78K for my 787 files. This is a lot of memory, and will mean that more than one disc will have to be used in order to store all my information. A small price to pay for what is a great time-saver. Well done, Felix! ■

FELIX

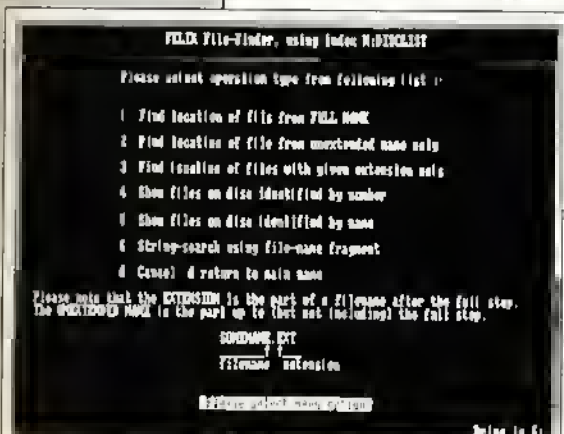
Pluses

- ▲ Great time saver
- ▲ Good, friendly manual
- ▲ Well thought-out product

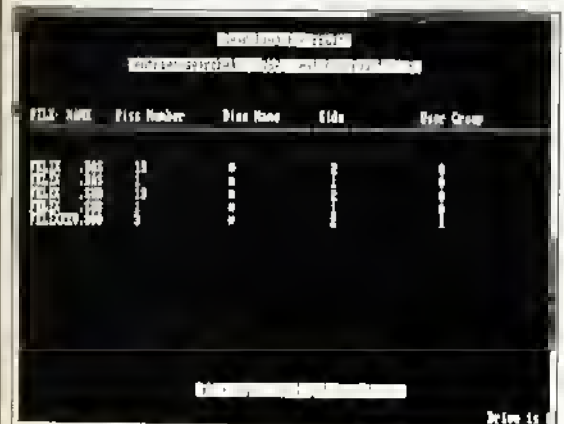
Minuses

- ▼ Eats memory
- ▼ No printout feature
- ▼ Bit pricey

EASE OF USE 4/5 PERFORMANCE 4/5
DOCUMENTATION 4/5
8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT 12/15



The extensive range of available options is shown here, ranging from searching on a whole file name to searching on just a fragment of it. I know the FELIX review is somewhere but I'm not quite sure where, so let's search for FELIX.



After typing in FELIX, the program gets to work. In a matter of seconds, I can see that the review is contained on disc three, side two, group one, and that for once I have made a backup copy of a backup copy!

BOOK LOOK

Sophie Lankenau leafs her way through the latest volumes of PCW wisdom

EASY GUIDE TO AMSTRAD PCW 8256/8512 WORD PROCESSORS

by E D Wynn

£6.50 • Edward Arnold • 0732 450111

Here is an author who really has the interests of any willing student at heart. A ring-bound (or 'plastic comb coil' if you want to impress publishers at parties) booklet is an utter godsend for someone trying to divide their time equally between reading and implementing instructions. There are few things more frustrating than leaping unceremoniously from How to Load a Disc to The Potential of an Interface with one careless slip of an overworked paperweight.

Having established the easy way to open Eileen Wynn's Easy Guide to Amstrad Word Processors, you can then set about getting to grips with the subject matter. Rather than devote a chapter to explaining rudimentary facts about your machine, Wynn jumps straight in with details of its manipulation. This is somewhat discouraging for the novice, who, expecting an 'Easy Guide' is suddenly faced with jargon which is enough to send the budding word processing expert hurtling back to their typewriter. Providing they don't, and take the time to read the text through, a pleasant surprise is in store.

The learning process with this step by step instruction manual comes about by repetition of terminology, coupled with bracketed explanations of what it actually means. This method eventually works. In Wynn's book however, you aren't cossetted for long – as the chapters advance, the friendly brackets retreat to be replaced by occasional prompts as to why you are doing what you are being told to do.

The exercises which you carry out are thorough without being lengthy. You move swiftly along, ironing out any queries by quick cross-reference to earlier sections. Nearly every page features a visual representation of the effects which your actions are achieving – or should be – so mistakes are easy to spot.

The amount of input which you have to perform, in the shape of letters, memos and so on, is a useful way to familiarise your fingers with the speed of the keyboard, adjusting them from the more rigid feel of the typewriter key. The joys of the delete [DEL] keys can then be fully appreciated. Although the guide is directed at both the PCW8526 and the PCW8512, the section dedicated to the latter is brief – but no less informative, if you've taken in a sufficient percentage of the book so far. It is at this point that you are considered both able and interested enough to be privy to all those handy labour-saving ways of operating the program via the ruthless dispensing of the main menu in favour of using the [+] and [-] commands.

The key to getting the most out of Eileen Wynn's guide lies in pure determination and persistence. There is something very encouraging about a user guide which is so slim in terms of volume. When you also have the good fortune to find a no-nonsense account of how to make your machine work for you, a once daunting task disappears. ■

WORD PROCESSING WITH LOCOSCRIPT 1 AND 2

by Kenneth Walton

£6.95 • Pitman Publishing • 01 3797383

Kenneth Walton has placed himself in something of an unenviable position by producing this, his third publication on the versions of LocoScript. Here, his chief concern is to demonstrate the programs' practical applications, rather than a user's crib to understanding the software itself. But he still has to allow for the perpetual dilemma of explaining the subject matter without confusing or patronising the reader. His solution is workable – a brief introductory chapter ensures that you remember what a disc is, the meanings behind terms such as RAM (Random Access Memory) and CPU (Central Processing Unit), and what to expect when you insert said disc into the machine. It is short, unintrusive, and comforting.

The book opens with an explanation of editing documents, incorporating text composition and alteration, and [CUT],[COPY],[PASTE] techniques. The tutorial then devotes four chapters to the principles of Templates and Layouts. This might seem excessive until you remember that LocoScript is, after all, a program renowned for being able to present the written word on the finished page the way that you want comparatively easily.

Mid-way through the book, there is a compact summary of the tutorial to date. Even if you have read your stuff thoroughly up to this point, the precis is a very welcome refresher, ensuring that you can go on to tackle future information with a more than reasonable command of the basics.

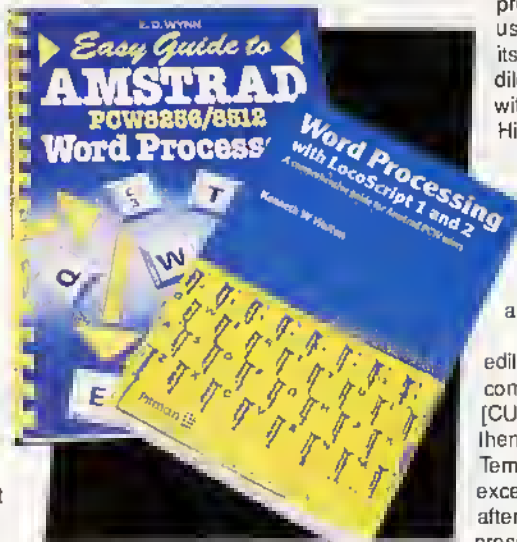
As if by reward, the middle section is dedicated to the printer, so that you can transform the fruits of your study to paper. Every conceivable printer application is dealt with, enabling you to match your particular needs to the possibilities which the machine offers.

Walton uses screenshots with economy – perhaps a disadvantage for the complete beginner, but then the guide is not for the totally uninitiated. The neat organisation of the chapters into manageable sub-sections, and the clarity of explanation make the need for visual backup almost redundant.

Thus far, the book has concerned itself with LocoScript 1. The section on LocoScript 2 follows a similar format, highlighting details on the benefits of the latest version. Again, there is a hefty chunk given over to – yes, you guessed it, Templates and Layouts – and a repeat of the concise 'Summary' chapter as with LocoScript 1.

As in the previous case, the tutorial is designed to complement rather than replace the Manual. However, the section on LocoScript 2 is far more limited, and you would be unwise to tackle it without having fully absorbed section one.

Despite this minor criticism, Walton's guide excels in its adherence to the promise which the Preface offers – to clarify the 'hows' and 'whys' of word processing with both versions of LocoScript. ■



ISBN 0 7131 3662 6

8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT 3/5

ISBN NUMBER 0 273 03088 4

8000 PLUS VALUE VERDICT 4/5

CAREERING ALONG

How do you get a job working with computers? Annette Dougal, a computer professional, tells you all about IT

There are hundreds of different jobs available in the computer world, but they can be grouped into three main areas: the manufacture of hardware, the provision of software, and computer operation itself. There are jobs dealing directly with computers, in design, production, servicing, programming and sales, as well as many jobs providing backup services such as training, technical writing, journalism, marketing and consultancy.

If you want a career in the computer industry, what qualifications and personal qualities do you need? Computers are everywhere. They control production lines and stock levels, produce invoices and airline tickets, analyse test results and market trends. And, with new applications being developed every day, these markets show no signs of slowing down.

This rapid increase in the use of computer-related technology has resulted in a shortage of skilled staff in almost all areas. The shortfall in trained workers is due to get worse and is exacerbated by the declining number of young people entering the job market. By the middle of the 1990s, there will be about a million fewer school leavers. In addition, the continuing scarcity of qualified Maths and Physics teachers in schools will mean fewer science graduates, one of the industry's traditional sources of recruitment.

These problems could not come at a worse time for UK companies. The arrival of the free European market in 1992 will mean firms will be requiring more skilled labour than ever

before in order to remain competitive. Bad news, indeed, for industry, but good news for computer professionals.

Loads of money

A sure sign of the skills shortage is the number of computer recruitment agencies springing up. Part of the problem is that companies are unwilling, or unable, to train staff from scratch in the high-level skills they require. As firms poach each others' trained staff, salaries are pushed up even higher.

What kind of money are we talking about? Exact figures will vary depending on local conditions with salaries in the South East of England being about 25% higher than the national average. A trainee programmer could earn around £10,000 rising to £13,000 after two years and £15-£18,000 after five years. An electronics engineering graduate could earn between £9,000 and £13,000 to start, rising to £13-£18,000 after two years and £20-£25,000 after five years.

With 18 months' to two years' programming experience, you could take your pick of jobs. If you want to be your own boss, there are plenty of opportunities for freelance work at about £500 per week. With the right skills and three or four years' experience, a good systems programmer could earn £1,000 a week in the South East.

But how do you get your foot on the career ladder? I asked four young computer specialists about their backgrounds and for their advice to would-be fellow professionals about breaking into the market.

Small STEPS for mankind

If you want to convert to engineering but don't have Maths or Science 'A' levels, you can take Special Technology and Engineering Preparatory Studies (STEPS) courses, lasting two, rather than four, years at some universities.

The soft option

Ben Dillstone has been working for Praxis Systems PLC as a software engineer (programmer) since 1987. After Maths, Physics and Chemistry 'A' levels, Ben read Computer Science at York University, then spent a further two years there as part of a research team. This "fairly theoretical work" provided him with "a good learning experience", but, feeling it was time to "write real programs for real people", he joined Praxis.

Ben is anxious to dispel the myth that programmers sit all day hunched over a keyboard. "In fact, writing programs is a small part of any project, just one of three roughly equal phases: specification, implementation and, finally, testing and documenting the product."

Ben specialises in relational databases. He spent a year working on a system to store and assess GCSE exam results for the Northern Examining Association and is currently working on another large database application. As well as being a technical expert on ORACLE, he is responsible for the company's graduate recruitment.

My way

Another widespread myth is that good programmers are computer junkies who

only communicate with others through electronic mail. In fact, they have to talk to clients and usually work in a team, so they have to get on well with other people. They need excellent communications skills as well as technical know-how. Because of this, Ben does not believe that the route he followed is the best way into programming. "A computer science degree can be rather narrow. If I was starting again, I would take an Arts degree and then either find a software house prepared to train me, or take a one year computer conversion course."

"There are three main areas of employment for programmers: manufacturers of computer hardware and software, data-processing departments and software houses. Manufacturers pay well, with starting salaries for computer science graduates of up to £16,000, but you'll have to work extremely hard for it and there is a danger of pigeon-holing,

finding yourself limited to a particular product range. The data-processing department of a large organisation makes for a safe, but possibly dull, existence, with technology five to ten years behind the industry. Software houses provide a challenging and stimulating environment in which to work."

After three years, Ben still enjoys his job. "The work is technically challenging. I would certainly recommend it. Computers are going to make a dramatic difference to people's lives. This is an excellent time to get into the industry."



Programmer Ben Dillstone is a high earner and, above all, a man who loves his work

S/he sells C shells?

Without sales there would be no business. Computer manufacturers do not usually sell direct to the public, but through dealers. Robert Read is a Product Manager for Dewco-mce Computer Services Ltd, a Bristol-based dealer. He did not go straight into sales. When he left school after 'A' levels, not wanting to go to university, Robert worked for a year as a computer client clerk with Tate and Lyle, sending 'Picking lists' from Bristol to a mainframe computer in London via a modem. In 1983 he joined Dewco-mce as Manager of their new showroom. During the next two years, he learned as much as he could about the company's products and received sales training before joining the sales team.

About a third of Robert's time is spent in the office, following leads, sending out and chasing up quotations and dealing with paperwork. The rest of the week he meets potential clients, conducts demonstrations, and visits corporate customers to generate new and repeat business. He really enjoys his work. "I like meeting people and getting over to them the product I'm selling. I enjoy seeing the light in people's eyes when they realise how much this tool will help them with their job."



Robert Read, "I like meeting people and getting over the product I'm selling."

"To be a successful computer salesperson, you don't have to have a degree or even 'A' levels, but you do need a good standard of education, with English GCSE of help. You also need a competent and genuine telephone manner with good communications skills for dealing with clients. Smart dress is required and enthusiasm for and knowledge of your product range. Training in sales techniques will usually be provided."

Nice little earner

Computer sales people tend to be in their 20s and 30s, both male and female. The earnings potential is massive. Salespeople are usually paid a basic salary, plus commission based on their performance. A company car normally goes with the job. "Expect a starting basic salary of about

£6,000. But once you've built up your customer base, you could easily double your salary. My advice? Build up your product and customer knowledge. Learn everything you can about the system and the people to whom you will be selling it."

To help you decide whether you are interested in sales, programming, technical support or training, Robert recommends taking a computer course at a technical college, particularly one which involves work experience. To get into sales, approach companies direct. "After all, it you can sell yourself to them, you can sell their products to others!"

DAT'll be the day

Tracey Hains and James Harrison are two of Hewlett Packard's Research and Development Engineers on its Digital Audio Tape (DAT) project. Tracey works on firmware, "the embedded software that controls the function of hardware". She has spent a year refining the format for DAT and represents the company on an international level. James is part of the hardware team and is in charge of five engineers, "co-ordinating their efforts to ensure that the hardware is fully functional and reliable".

After Science 'A' levels, Tracey found Maths "too abstract" and so went on to read Computer Science with Mathematics at Bristol University, gaining a First. She decided to deal with firmware because "writing COBOL programs didn't sound interesting. I enjoy designing something and seeing it work, seeing the wheels turn. There is a lot of variation in the work, lots of opportunity to travel and meet people. I like working in a new and exciting field, at the forefront of technology."

James also took Science 'A' levels, then chose a degree at Bristol University in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, specialising in digital electronics. "I could see a use for it. With the micro processor being developed at that time, most advances were being made in that field. Something new was happening all the time." He was sponsored by the electronics company RACAL, who employed him for a year before university, and during vacations, as well as paying him during the course and guaranteeing a job on graduation. Working in all the company's departments, from production to accounts, "was very, very useful, seeing how the company functioned and where all the departments fitted in."

Wanting to work in a commercial environment, James joined Hewlett Packard. Like Tracey, he enjoys the practical nature of electronic design. "I like starting with a blank sheet of paper and ending up with a solid piece of equipment, which you can

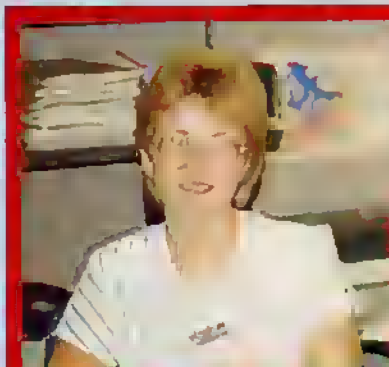
turn on and will work, knowing you have designed a good product, which is reliable and cost effective."

The quickest way to secure a career in electronic engineering is to take Science 'A' levels, followed by a degree, preferably one involving a sizeable practical project. James feels that taking a year out before going to University or Polytechnic "leads to a more mature approach and makes it easier to select options. It also provides you with a background for the job."

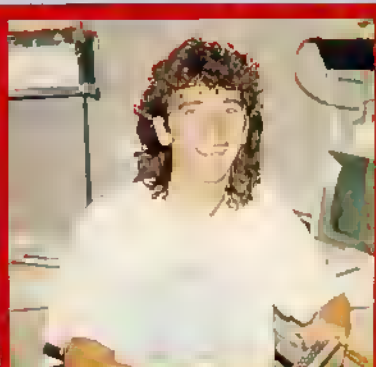
Work experience during your degree is also recommended, either through a sandwich course or through vacation jobs offering computer experience. Find out if sponsorship is available. A longer route would be to get BTEC/SCOTVEC qualifications at your local technical college, start with a firm as a technician, take day release courses and work your way up to engineering.

According to Tracey, "to be a good engineer, you need patience, an inquiring mind and determination." James agrees, adding, "... you need to be prepared to be flexible as things change rapidly. You need to be able to stand back and take a look at your design objectively. You must grasp information quickly. You need a good, analytical mind, constantly gathering the relevant data, looking at the problem, reviewing it, trying new ideas. You should enjoy problem solving and take a structured approach."

Would they recommend the job? "Certainly. The people are good and the pay's good! Everyone is reporting a shortage of engineers, so salaries are rising. There are always going to be good jobs for engineers."



Tracey Hains found Maths "too abstract" and now represents her company on international boards



James Harrison: "I like working in a new and exciting field at the forefront of technology."

Courses for older horses

High Technology National Training Courses provide specialised training, mainly in computer-related subject areas, often leading to a post graduate qualification. Higher National Diploma (HND) or Higher National Certificate (HNC). These are government-funded and replace the old TOPS scheme.

Out of this world

If you are unemployed, the Employment Training (ET) programme offers people from 18 to 60 up to a year's full-time training, including real work experience. Ask at your local Job Centre.

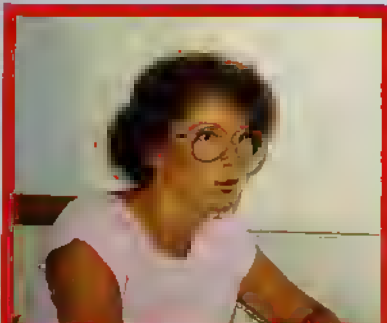
Careers woman

Angeline Rogers, a Careers Officer with the County of Avon Careers Service, talked to me about computer opportunities in schools and offered her advice to parents with children who are interested in a computing career.

"The school typing class used to be a female domain. Not any more! If possible, help your child develop good keyboard skills. After all, the less you have to look at the keys, the more you can concentrate on what you are trying to make happen on the screen.

"Science subjects and maths have traditionally been considered important for computing, but good communication skills are highly rated by employers, so don't ignore English. Also, learning a foreign language is an excellent training for learning a computer language and, with 1992 on the horizon, should be a great asset.

"When it comes to choosing a career, pupils should discuss the options with the careers teacher, if there is one, or the careers officer who visits the school. Does your child enjoy taking machinery apart and rebuilding it, or like writing games and other programs? Outside interests and hobbies should be taken into account as well as academic ability. Careful guidance is most important, so consult your local careers adviser."



Angeline Rogers: "Careful guidance is important"

Your flexible friend

Access courses are for people who missed out on getting formal qualifications at school and want to return to study. These one year full-time courses run at local colleges of further education and often lead directly into Polytechnic courses.

Discretionary grants may be available. Contact your local Further Education college.

Many colleges run full and part-time day and evening courses, covering all aspects of computing and leading to RSA, City and Guilds and BTEC/SCOTVEC qualifications. Polytechnics run full and part-time courses leading to HNDs, BAs or BScs in computer related subjects. Many colleges now run Open Learning Centres, where you can drop in and study a chosen subject at a time convenient to yourself.

➤ A computer operator is, traditionally, the person responsible for running a mainframe or mini computer. He or she loads tapes and discs, controls the sequence of work, monitors the programs, checks printers, maintains logs and carries out routine maintenance. The work is often carried out in shifts, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Mainframe or mini computer operators require at least GCSEs, including Maths and English, and often 'A' levels.

Smooth operator

Micro computers are now widespread, with business systems using standard software packages to carry out many office

tasks. They are also used increasingly as technical or commercial tools, for computer aided design, mathematical simulations, business or economic modelling.

Communications and networking represent an area of rapid growth. A micro computer operator could be someone running any one of a dozen applications: payroll, stock control, production scheduling, financial analysis, word processing and so on. The computer could just as easily be in a laboratory, shop, warehouse or factory as in an office.

The qualifications needed to be a micro computer operator will vary according to the job. Visual Display Unit (VDU) operators require manual dexterity and accuracy. Word processor operators should have good secretarial skills while desktop publishing operators need a flair for graphic design. GCSEs will help get a job in micro computer operating, as will enthusiasm, reliability and a willingness to learn new skills. Many companies will provide training in specific applications.

Quo vadis?

Choose a college course in a relevant subject or one which includes computer experience. Economics, languages and business studies are all highly regarded by prospective employers. Many computer jobs demand excellent social and communications skills. All require the ability to work on your own initiative and as part of a team.

Local employment and training opportunities vary, so get advice from your local careers officers. Ask about YTS (where appropriate) and NCC Threshold courses and find out what else is available at colleges of further education in your area. Look out for advertisements in the local press and write directly to the personnel departments of computer-using firms. You can find out relevant addresses from the *Computer Users' Year Book*, a copy of which should be available at your main public library.

The computer industry at home and abroad offers challenging work at all levels. As the market continues to expand, with rapid developments, particularly in telecommunications, information technology is changing the face of the workplace. This fast-moving and dynamic industry will continue to provide excellent career opportunities in the future. You, your children or even your children's children can be part of Information Technology (IT)!

Useful addresses for further information

British Computer Society
13 Mansfield Street
London W1M 0BP Tel: 01 637 0471

National Computing Centre
Oxford Road
Manchester M1 7ED Tel: 061 228 6333

High Technology National Training
Dept HTNT, The Training Agency
FREEPOST (TK 895), Brentford,
Middlesex TW8 8BR Tel: 0800 444 245

University degrees:

University Central Council for Admissions (UCCA)
PO Box 28, Cheltenham

CNAA (Polytechnic) Degrees

Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA)
344-354 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8BP

Regulatory bodies for computer courses:

City and Guilds of London Institute
76 Portland Place, London W1N 4AA

Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC)
Central House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0HH

Scottish Vocational Educational Council (SCOTVEC)
22 Great King Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QH

Royal Society of Arts (RSA)
John Adam Street, Adelphi, London WC2N 6EZ

Entry qualifications/duration of courses BTEC or SCOTVEC In Computer Studies

National Certificate

3-4 GCSEs
1 year full-time
2 years part-time

National Diploma

3-4 GCSEs
2 years full-time
3 years part-time

HNC

National Certificate or 1 'A' level
1 year full-time
3 years part-time

HNC Maths/Statistics/Computing

1 'A' level
2 years part-time

HND Maths/Statistics/Computing

1 'A' level
2 years full-time
3 years part-time

Degrees

2-3 'A' levels
3 years full-time (4 with industrial training)
Scotland:
3-4 Highers
4 years full-time
5 with industrial training

DISC DESIGN

FORMS BOX COMPENDIUM . 19.95

The stationers on a disk (new extended version)
Over 80- different LocoScript forms ready to print and use: Personal Organiser, Home, Finance, Calendar, Planner and Business sections.

FIFTHBASE2 19.95

The intelligent database. Especially good on question answering, with AND/OR logic. Also included - XBASE - the revolutionary database that communicates in English.

UTILITIES PLUS 19.95

Dozens of time saving programs. A few examples: Labels - address lists onto labels. File sorter - many options. Columns - converts text files to multi columns. Word sentence and letter counter. Matrix printer set up commands.

HYPERTEXT 19.95

Hypertext is a free flowing system that connects screens of information using associative links. Hypertext mimics the brain's ability to find and retrieve information quickly and easily by links between topics.

EXPERT SYSTEM 29.95

Expert System maintains a facts data-base and a stack of rules. Each rule consists of any number of stimulus elements, which specify the facts which have to be true before the rule can fire; and any number of commands or assertions which are implemented when the rule fires. The assertions alter the facts data-base.

TEXTBASE 19.95

Textbase makes a database of already existing (ASCII) files. It has a number of modules that can either be used from the Textbase Menu or used separately as self-contained programs.

SECURITY 19.95

A system for coding, decoding and viewing confidential text and other files. The files are protected from prying eyes by a key word or phrase that can be used to decode the file.

SUPASTAT 19.95

A collection of statistical programs and facilities that runs under Mallard basic - very easy to use.

INTRASET

CASHMASTER 29.95

CASHMASTER is designed as a more powerful, flexible and easy to use accounting system, than its rivals. Its much cheaper too.

POOLMASTER 18.95

At long last there is a simple, easy to use and effective computer program to Predict the FOOTBALL POOLS.

COURSEMASTER 18.95

BEAT THE BOOKIE!
The COURSEMASTER racing program is designed to give you the edge to profit against your bookie!

SPA Associates

PCW MACHINE CODE 13.95

A practical guide to controlling PCW's by MACHINE CODE PROGRAMMING

WADD SOFT

WRITE RIGHT 14.95

We are pleased to re-introduce this very popular program to improve the student's use of the English language. Now further improved and enlarged.

CF2 DISCS BUY DIRECT FROM THE SPECIALISTS!

TYPE 1

Made in Japen by MATSUSHITA(PANASONIC)
Black disc with square cross-hatching, serial numbered on end between while pull-out write protect tabs.

- SUITABLE FOR ALL PCW's •

PANASONIC CF2

Individual polythene sleeves - with labels & instruction sheets

19.95 for 10

(10.95 for 5)

or

With individual Library Cases, labels & instruction sheets

22.95 for 10

(12.95 for 5)

AMSOFT CF2

AMSOFT labelled discs in printed AMSOFT sleeves

21.95 for 10

(11.95 for 5)

(Library Cases available separately - see below)

TYPE 2

Made in Japen by MAXELL
Plain black disc with red flip-over write protect tabs, serial number printed in white above label indent.

- DOUBLE SIDED • FOR SINGLE HEAD DRIVE •

(*see note)

MAXELL CF2

in printed sleeves - loose labels - individually shrink wrapped

19.95 for 10

(10.95 for 5)

or

With individual Library Cases

22.95 for 10

(11.95 for 5)

(*note: in practice we have found these suitable for all PCW's)

TYPE 3

Made in Japen by MAXELL
Plain black disc with red flip-over write protect tabs, serial number printed in white above label indent.

- DOUBLE SIDED • DOUBLE DENSITY •

- FOR DOUBLE HEAD DRIVE •

MAXELL CF2-D

in printed sleeves - loose labels - individually shrink wrapped

22.95 for 10

(11.95 for 5)

or

With individual Library Cases

25.95 for 10

(13.95 for 5)

TYPE 4

We have not yet found ANY other 3" discs that are reliable enough to sell (at any price!)

GUARANTEE

All discs supplied by COPY COMM are fully tested and guaranteed. We will replace any faulty disc supplied by us without question

LIBRARY CASES

We are pleased to be able to supply empty library cases for CF2 discs.

3.95 for 10

(sorry about the mistake in last month's ad!)

D G C Software

ULTIMATE SUMS 14.95

The fun way for children aged 5 to mid-teens to learn and practice sums.
• EIGHT TYPES OF SUM •
• EIGHT LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY •
• UP TO EIGHT PLAYERS •
• COMPREHENSIVE SCORE SHEET •

ULTIMATE WORD 14.95

Test your knowledge of English words.
• LARGE SUPPLEMENTARY DICTIONARY •
• CREATE YOUR OWN DICTIONARY •
• ADD WORDS DURING THE GAME •

ULTIMATE QUIZ 14.95

Learning can be fun!
• ONE TO EIGHT PLAYERS •
• 10 QUIZZES (1000 QUESTIONS) SUPPLIED •
• OPTIONAL JOKES - TIMER - OXO GAME •
• COMPREHENSIVE SCORE SHEET •
• SUITABLE FOR SCHOOLS - CLUBS - HOME •
• MENU DRIVEN - VERY EASY TO USE •
*** NOW INCLUDES ***

ULTIMATE TEST

One player against the clock
Can you take the ULTIMATE TEST?

*** PLUS ***

ULTIMATE QUIZ QUESTION PRINTER

*** PLUS ***

ULTIMATE QUIZ QUESTION EDITOR

ULTIMATE GUESS 19.95

Guess Which Animal - Guess Who - Guess Where now combined into one package. These Intelligent programs will use your responses to 'get it right' the next time. The store of knowledge within the program grows and grows.

THE USEFUL DISC 14.95

A collection of 20 useful and entertaining programs to help you use the computer to the full!

BAR CHARTS • CALENDARS • COLUMNS
CONVERSIONS • DIARY • DISC LABELS
FILE MERGE • PRINTER SET-UP
ASCII PRINTER • ENCRYPTION • TIMER
WORD COUNTER • ASCII SORTER
DRAWING - FRUIT - SHOOT - SQUASH
(For the children)

DAY-2-DAY 14.95

A complete set of diary/calendar templates to use with LocoScript 1 or 2 to produce calendar or diary pages for personal organisers or A4 folders.

Print empty pages or fill in and print.
(blank continuous organiser stationary available)

RIBBONS

PCW 8256 / 8512

Black Fabric 4.95

Black Carbon Film 6.95

PCW 9512

Black Carbon Film 3.95

Black Fabric 4.95

PAPER & LABELS

SPECIALS

PERSONAL ORGANISER PAPER

Continuous micro-perforated paper for personal organisers (6 1/2" X 4 1/4") 80 gsm
per 100 sheets only 3.95

DISC LABELS

Continuous labels (2 3/4" X 2 3/4") 1-across
Specially made for 3" discs
per 100 labels only 4.95

ADDRESS LABELS

Continuous labels (4" X 1 1/8") 1-across
Ideal for all addressing & labelling
per 1000 labels only 6.95

ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE VAT & POSTAGE

Overseas Customers - Air Mail - Same Prices!

(for orders over £25 - VAT covers extra postage and handling)

COPY COMM Ltd

Aytounhill, CUPAR, Fife KY14 6JH

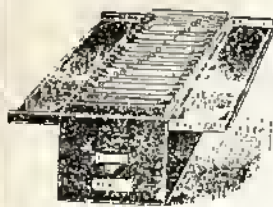
Telephone: 033 77 444

(Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 - Human Beings. Other Times - Infernal Machine)

FAX : 033 77 445 (Anytime!)

• VISA • BARCLAYCARD • ACCESS • MASTERCARD • AMERICAN EXPRESS • DINERS CLUB •

USEFUL, REALLY



AnsibleIndex PLUS

The classic Locoscript Indexer is easier to use than ever before, and even more powerful. **AnsibleIndex PLUS** will index from your Locoscript documents:

- ★ Words, phrases and inverted phrases
- ★ Headings and sub-headings
- ★ Themes and sub-themes
- ★ Choice of automatic alphabet sorting
- ★ Cross-references

We include **AnsibleCheck** ... the fast Locoscript word counter. Will count a whole document, several of them in one go ... or just a short section of text. (Also available separately: £19.95.) And the dreaded **Grease** is as galling as ever

Price: **£34.95**

We also supply **A.I.Q.** ... the UNIQUE random text program, with results that are (always) uncannily lifelike and (usually) funny. Nothing else on the Amstrad PCW can compare with this!

Price: **£29.95**

Request our info sheet for more details. All Ansible software comes with a manual written in plain English. The prices shown include VAT, postage and after-sales support. No extras!

N.B. When ordering, please tell us which PCW model you use.

ANSIBLE INFORMATION

94 London Road
Reading Berkshire, RG1 5AU, England

TEL: 0672 62576

VISA

ACCESS

ASTROLOGY for beginners

Teach yourself astrology using your Amstrad

Buy a Starter Pack comprising a simple program to calculate a horoscope, an introductory booklet and 2 self teaching programs (how to interpret the horoscope).

ONLY £12.50 No previous knowledge required
For ALL Amstrads (CPC, PCW, PC, PPC)

Payment by Access/Visa, Cheque, P.O. Please state make of computer or send s.a.e. (about 9"x7") for free catalogue giving details of our wide range of programs for **PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGERS** including complete natal interpretations and forecasting.

Also **I CHING, GRAPHOLOGY, BIORHYTHMS, etc.**

ASTROCALC

(Dept 8000) 67 Peasecroft Road, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP3 8ER England. Tel: 0442 51809

SIGNWRITER

Quality lettering
from your PCW **£29.95**

Many extra fonts (£5.75 each plus disk), e.g.:

IDECO Chal Corn Cril

Also:
PAPERBASE De Luxe for bibliographies
LABELWRITER for product labels
OXSTAT for statistics
COLOURED RIBBONS

WIGHT SCIENTIFIC

Dept. 8P
44 Roan Street
London SE10 9JT

Tel. (01) 858 2699

ADVANTAGE

ONLY
£5.95

CLASSIC PD

Postage &
VAT Included

- The BEST Public Domain Software
- Specially Adapted for the PCW
- Easy Start-Up - Full Instructions
- Fast Despatch - First Class

HOW TO BUY
Order with confidence, by phone using your Access
or Visa card or send cheque, PO or Eurocheque to:-

Advantage, 56 Bath Road,
Cheltenham, GL53 7HJ

0242 224340 Fax 0242 226755

WORD SPREAD-BASES

WORD PROCESSOR £5.95 Powerful Wordstar-like editor with full block operations, windowing, automatic horizontal scroll, macro functions, word-wrap, formatting, pagination, find/replace, pagination, undo/redo and many user options.

SPREADSHEET £5.95 For home accounts, mortgage repayments, business transactions. 60 rows by 26 columns, menu-driven, enter text, numeric value or calculation. Print facility.

DATABASE £5.95 Relational database with reports generator. Uses free formal query language with macros and commands plus on-line help. A good introduction to the world of databases. Comes with a useful Inventory Database.

KEYBASE II £5.95 A commercial menu-driven database released as Shareware - register with the author for the full version. 15 birds and 128 records out of 32000 - more than enough to set up a simple database. Ideal for cataloguing collections. Well designed, simple to use and it works - 8000 Plus.

HOME & BUSINESS

THE DESKMASTER £5.95 A suite of programs comprising a Desk-Top Appointments Calendar, Calculator, Memo-writer, Card-file Database, Label Printer, Home Accounts, Mortgage Calculator, Weather Forecaster and UNERASE for the M drive.

HOME VIDEO £5.95 Keep track of your video collection with this purpose built program. Offers four Sort Options and Forms Management System for printing out the data in order of title number, video number, global alphabet or unique.

HOME INVENTORY/HOME INSURANCE £5.95 Record your assets and their value eg. for contents insurance, monitoring your spending, valuing your stamp collection, simple stock taking.

LETAPOINT £5.95 Fed up with the characters on your PCW screen? With Letafont you can see a wide variety of new ones, change the look of programs, print out text in different styles and alter any of the 16 fonts provided using the LETA-EDIT program - design your own character set!

KERMIT & FRIENDS £5.95 For data transfer between computers (local and remote), access to databases, bulletin boards, Viradata, Prestel, Kermil, UKModem7, MEX & Comms utilities.

STD CODEBOOK £5.95 Text files containing lists of all the UK STD codes and corresponding exchange names. List in numeric order of STD codes and alphabetical exchanges.

NUMBER CRUNCHER £5.95 Does for calculations what a word processor does for text. The mathematician's toolbox has 15 alg.fg, accuracy, complex formulas, %, log, trig functions, fixed or floating point. Plenty of menus and on-screen help.

PROGRAMMING

THE Z80 PROGRAMMER £5.95 Convert your own Assembler into a fully executable machine code .COM program. Includes Z80 Disassembler, Z80 Debugger, Z80 Library, 8080 Disassembler, Z80 to 8080 Translator and associated utilities.

THE C PROGRAMMER £5.95 C for Yourself what C programming is like. A practical and usable version of C which produces .COM programs. Includes source code and documentation.

THE PASCAL PROGRAMMER £10.95 A completely operational Pascal compiler which compiles to executable .COM programs. With sample programs and extensive documentation. (2 DISC SET).

PROLOG 80 £5.95 This powerful interpreter offers a good introduction to the world of Artificial Intelligence. Printed documentation supplied with the disc.

THE LISP PROGRAMMER £5.95 Why not find out more about this fascinating Artificial Intelligence interpreter. Plenty of on-disc documentation.

GOING FORTH £5.95 A comprehensive FORTH compiler which produces executable programs with documentation and utilities.

C TOOLBOX £5.95 See some practical examples of C at work with this disc full of C source code examples. Each program is accompanied by the corresponding executable .COM programs.

MIX C COMPILER £33.95
Thousands of satisfied users agree that this is the best floating point C compiler for the PCW. MIX C is supplied with an extensive manual and tutorial plus examples.

ADVANTAGE MIX £44.95
This amazing value for money package offers all the items you need to write your own programs in C - MIX C compiler, Text Editor, Source code for the Tutorial, Graphics Library and the MIX Assembler Utility. (Items also available separately)

NEVADA COBOL COMPILER £33.95
Very popular with colleges, Nevada Cobol offers one step compile and run, fast programming for commercial and home applications. Printed manual supplied.

NEVADA PASCAL COMPILER £33.95
A good low-cost one-step compiler and run language which offers sequential or Indexed file I/O and list-style debugging. Printed manual supplied.

NEVADA FORTRAN COMPILER £33.95
Adheres closely to the ANSI X3.9 standard with some 1977 extensions. Two pass assembler, random I/O file, Inneton library and runtime error reports. With printed manual.

* ADVANTAGE ALSO STOCK
THE HISOFT RANGE OF QUALITY PRODUCTS

GAMES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

PUT YOUR WITS £5.95 Put your wits against the computer with Chess, Othello, MasterMind, Rubik's Cube, Spellit, Stone (Award), TicTacToe and Word Search puzzles generator.

FUN & GAMES £5.95 A selection of popular classics: Pacman, Space Invaders, Maze Game, Hungry Snake, Pressup, Ping-Pong, Return to Arg, Game of Life, Bugs and Golf.

AMUSEMENTS AND DIVERSIONS £5.95 Packed with over 30 games including Star Trek, Lunar Lander, Pilot, Merchant, Baseball, Football, Horses, Civil War, Craps, Baccarat, Chase, Spies.

COLOSSAL CAVE ADVENTURE £5.95 The one that started it all! An extensive and challenging adventure game. Features game save and re-load. Also "BESTIARY" specially written for the PCW.

PCW CHALLENGE £5.95 Four enthralling evil games from Nemesis - The Trial of Arnold Blackwood, Arnold Goes To Somewhere Else, The Wise And Fool Of Arnold Blackwood, Brawn Free.

TRIVIA QUIZ £5.95 Multi-choice game with graphics and sound, competitive scoring and plenty of questions. Suitable for all ages. "Guaranteed completely trivial" - 8000 Plus.

LOGO LOGIC £5.95 Six educational programs specially written for DR-LOGO (supplied with all PCWs) - AIRLINER, ANAGRAM, HANGMAN, UFO HUNTER, LOGO-DRAW and MUSIC PRINTER.

FUN WITH GRAPHICS £5.95 DRAWING program plots lines, points, boxes, four fill patterns, BIO-MORPH - fascinating graphic demonstration of natural selection. README - program to display any text file in double width, 45 character format.

DO IT YOURSELF

COMPLEAT UTILITIES £5.95 NEWSWEEP gives you one-key CP/M functions, makes disc and file housekeeping much easier, SUPERZAP Sector editor for modifying files and discs, UNERASE etc. DISCKITA disc formatter - 178k data format and 5 1/4" second drive formatting. MAKE, CLEANUP, LOOKAT, UNERASE, DIRECTORY CHECK, FILE SPLITTER, PASSWORD PROTECTION, SCRAMBLER.

TEXT PROCESSING £5.95 Print file (eg Spreadsheet) SIDEWAYS, ALPHABETIC SORT, WORD COUNT for text and Locoscript, WSCLEAN, CALENDAR GENERATOR, SPELLING CHECKER, SCORING CARD Generator, BANNER Printers, TYPEWRITER EMULATOR.

DISC ORGANISATION £5.95 CATALOGUE your discs, LU LIBRARY UTILITIES for archiving, FILE DATING system "SQUEEZE and UNSQUEEZE for space saving.

INSTA-MENU Now you have menu presentation similar to Locoscript for your CP/M programs. Simple program selection, copy, view, print out. Easy access to all user areas. The ideal "front end" for all your discs.

TWO FREE ISSUES!

When you take this opportunity to subscribe to **8000 PLUS**
Britain's biggest selling magazine for Amstrad PCW's

LOOK AT ALL THE ADVANTAGES...

- No more searching the shops trying to find a copy of **8000 PLUS**
- No more worrying that they've sold out and you'll miss an issue
- Your own personal copy delivered direct to your door
- You become eligible for a quarterly update giving details of news and special offers
- You get preferential treatment on all mail order promotion specials
- You get a cast-iron, money back guarantee:-

If you ever wish to cancel your subscription, for whatever reason, we will refund you in full for all unmailed issues – no questions asked.

So, nothing to lose but a lot to gain including **TWO FREE ISSUES!** So subscribe now by phoning Christine Stacey on 0458 74011 or fill in the form below and post it today.

I want to claim my two free issues

Please enter my subscription as follows;

Mainland U.K – 14 issues.....**£20.95**
Air mail Europe – 14 issues.....**£35.95**
Surface Europe and**£26.95**
rest of the world

I enclose my cheque for £
payable to Future Publishing Limited

Please debit my Access/Visa card

No.

Expiry date

Name

Address

Post code

Tel. no

Signature

Date

PC/SP/A4/0490

Arnor's 1990 PCW Software Sale

PROTEXT ... The Word Processor

Protext is now firmly established as the alternative to Locoscript.

All the features you would expect from a good word processor - many text editing commands, print commands, spell checking and mail-merging. The refinement and thought that has been put into the program - logical keystrokes and commands, clear layout, speed and power ... all go towards making Protext ideal for the novice or the experienced user.

* On-screen help * Typewriter mode * Insert or overwrite typing mode * Word count * Undelete feature * Move/copy/delete/print blocks of text * Box manipulation * Configuration * Personal dictionaries * Exec files * Two file editing * Keyboard macros * File conversion * Comprehensive Find & Replace * Foreign languages and accents * Program editing mode * Proportional printing, right justified * Conditional printing and loop constructs * Print any number of copies * Works with any printer * Calculator * Print labels * Use the maths/string functions to produce personal invoices etc *
* Compatible with PCW 9512 * Enhanced spelling checker - larger dictionaries, dictionary on drive M or on program disc * Many improvements based on customer feedback *

"Protext deserves to be the system by which all other word processors are judged ... a superb product" YOUR COMPUTER

"The great strength of this package is its ease of use" CWTA

"Protext is the solution to all Locoscript's drawbacks" PCW

"Makes Locoscript look like a snail" 8000 PLUS

"Simply the best word processing program to date for the PCW ... Locoscript is effectively dead" PUTTING YOUR AMSTRAD TO WORK

Protext is also available in German at £59.95 (Prowort)

Special Offer - Save £20

Buy Protext together with the book for £49.90 and save £20 off RRP.
(RRP £59.95 + £9.95 = £69.90)

Protext + Book £49.90

... The Book

At long last an independently produced book about Protext, written by Rob Ainsley.

The book features a large section of tips for easy reference and is well illustrated with screen shots and printouts.

It also includes a section written to help the Locoscript user to 'convert' quickly to Protext.

It is an essential purchase for any current or potential Protext user whatever their word processing experience.

Protext... A PCW User's guide
246 pages, illustrated paperback

Price £9.95 + £1 post/packing
(Post/packing is free if buying a piece of software)

New low prices for CP/M languages

MAXAM II

Complete CP/M machine code development system

* Macro assembler * nested conditional assembly * tile inclusion * textual substitution of macro parameters * repeat loops * Full expression evaluation * Error listing to screen/file/printer * 8080 mode * Linking facility * Create object files for use with C *

Window based monitor, with:

* line assembler * disassembler * memory editor * find string * relocate * move memory * compare memory * fill memory * bank switching * symbolic debugger * single stepping * set memory limits for stepping * stack checking * conditional breakpoints * trace mode * edit registers * Editor is program mode of Protext (es for C) *

"Maxam II - now the best gets even better" CWTA CPC

"A really excellent piece of software which, given the speed with which debugging can be done, will pay its way very quickly" ACU

"The thing that struck me ... was the amount of thought and effort that has gone into this product" CWTA CPC

"Maxam II is stunning ... the most complete and competent programming package around. Simple, speedy and sophisticated" AMSTRAD ACTION

RRP £49.95

Sale price £24.00

C

Complete C development system

* Full implementation of K&R standard *
* Optimising compiler * Floating point arithmetic * 32 and 16 bit integer arithmetic * I/O and maths libraries * Conditional compilation * File inclusion * Macros * Linker accepts C and assembler (with Maxam II) * Stand alone generator produces COM files

Protext compatible editor:-

* fast and easy to use * on screen help * two file editing * keyboard macros * fully configurable * powerful find and replace * exec files * compile from inside editor

"Very good value for money" AMSTRAD PCW

"Streets ahead in terms of programming power" AMSTRAD ACTION

"In typical Arnor fashion, they've taken their time and got it right" AMSTRAD COMPUTER USER

"All the facilities necessary to write complete applications programs"

POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY

RRP £49.95

Sale price £24.00

BCPL

Flexible, fast, general purpose programming language.

Extensive set of I/O libraries including access to CP/M routines. Example source files supplied, including full screen editor and all the libraries. Comprehensive 60 page manual covers the language and gives details of the libraries.

"Easy to use, yet both flexible and powerful" CWTA

"Good library of procedures ... very fast" 8000 PLUS

"Arnor's clear, concise manual will have you programming confidently very rapidly"

AMSTRAD ACTION

RRP £24.95

Sale £12.00

All programs run on PCW8256/8512, 9512, CPC6128

Releasing your micro's potential...



Arnor Ltd (EP), 611 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 3HA. Tel: 0733 68909

All prices include VAT, postage and packing. Access/Visa/Cheque/Postal Order.

Fax: 0733 67299

LISTINGS

A guest appearance from a Locomotive terminal program and how to check it's all okay

NEWCHAR.BAS

by Richard Clayton

You may have heard the name Richard Clayton bandied around the pages of 8000 Plus in the past. This is because Richard is the Technical Director of Locomotive Software, the creators of the LocoScript family of programs. You may also have heard of the impending release of LocoScript for the PC.

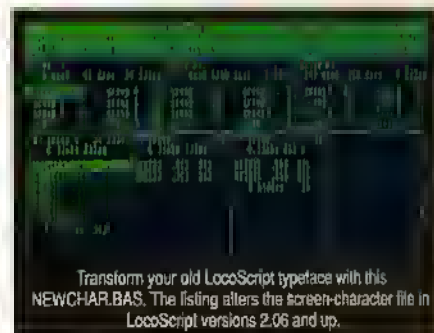
Well, for LocoScript PC, Locomotive have redesigned their screen character shapes to make them look better. In particular they are rather more finely drawn. The PCW uses a rather chunky screen font with 'thick' verticles which are two dots (pixels) wide. If, however, you'd like to experiment with thinner characters on your PCW this April, then Richard's listing will transform your characters into a slim-line version of themselves. As a bonus the program will optionally slant them

to the right in an italic style, just in case your monitor is on a wonky table which slants to the left.

The program works by processing one of LocoScript 2's hidden files, SCRCHAR.JOY to be exact. This contains the screen character shapes. Unfortunately PCW8000 owners still using LocoScript 1 or LocoScript 2.00 ... 2.06 don't have this file - they must upgrade to a modern version of the software ... plug, plug!

The first step is to MAKE A COPY of your start-of-day disc. Not merely your master-disc but a copy of the copy. This is just in case something goes wrong with the file. Once you have typed in the listing make sure you have the copy of your start-of-day disc in drive A: then run the program. Answer Y if you want thin characters and Y if you also want italic (or indeed Y to both questions). Then sit back and wait a few seconds while your SCRCHAR.JOY file is transformed. Re-boot LocoScript and appreciate the new shapes.

If you want to experiment further, you can alter the program as you wish. It comes in three parts - the first constructs a transformation array (X) which is what makes the characters thin. The second part processes the characters, applying the transformation and slanting them if the italic



option was requested. The third part fixes up some checksums in the file header without which LocoScript will reject the altered file.

Finally, a note about character shape designs. These are highly protected pieces of intellectual property - and their names are jealously guarded. Helvetica (a rather thin typestyle) will often be called 'Swiss' or 'Geneva' by people who have designed their own Helvetica style but don't want to purchase the rights to the Helvetica name. For the thin style which is produced by this listing Richard decided against picking another Swiss town but instead to dub it Wellington. You can think of this as the font which is used at boot up time!

```

10 REM NEWCHAR.BAS BY RICHARD CLAYTON                                140B
20 OPTION RUN                                                         0732
30 cls$=CHR$(27)+"E"+CHR$(27)+"H":PRINT cls$                         10DC
40 DEF FNat$(x,y)=CHR$(27)+"Y"+CHR$(32+x)+CHR$(32+y)                133E
50 PRINT CHR$(27)+"f":DEFINT A-Z                                       0DA4
60 INPUT "TYPE Y FOR ITALICS";Y$:ITAL=UPPER$(Y$)="Y"                1B14
70 INPUT "TYPE Y FOR THIN";Y$:THIN=UPPER$(Y$)="Y"                   19C7
80 PRINT cls$                                                         0630
90 DIM X(255)                                                         0541
100 FOR J=0 TO 255                                                    072B
110 PRINT FNat$(10,25);"Please wait until "J" = 255"                 15C9
120 X(J)=J:IF NOT THIN THEN 190                                       0E5F
130 FOR K=0 TO 6                                                      06A5
140 L=2^K:REM ^ is the power operator                                1393
150 IF (J AND (L*7)=(L*3)) THEN X(J)=X(J)-L*2                       10F1
160 IF (J AND (L*7)=(L*2)) THEN X(J)=X(J)-L                         106B
170 NEXT K                                                            047D
180 PRINT TAB(25);SPACES$(11)                                         0BF6
190 NEXT J                                                            0481
200 PRINT FNat$(10,25); "      CONVERSION STARTING                  " 1690

```

All the intantry such as clear screen and kill-the-cursor routines are set up here. While debugging it is a good idea to REM line 20. The (X) array is dimensioned in line 90

LISTINGS PLUS

```

210 F$="SCRCHAR.JOY"                                0908
220 IF FIND$(F$)="" THEN PRINT "Missing";F$:STOP    15F9
230 OPEN "R",#1,F$,8:FIELD #1,8 AS A$              0BCD
240 FOR R=17 TO 512-16                              0890
250 GET #1,R:B$=""                                  0652

```

The legwork is done here. Your copy of SCRCHAR.JOY is opened and read into memory beginning in line 230. The loop in line 240 does the reading.

```

260 FOR K=1 TO 8                                     06BF
270 B=ASC(MID$(A$,K,1)):C=X(B)                     0B4C
280 IF NOT ITAL THEN 320                            0A9C
290 FOR M=1 TO (7-K)/2                              081F
300 IF (C AND 1)=0 THEN C=C/2 ELSE C=((C-1)/2) OR 1 128F
310 NEXT M                                           0473
320 B$=CHR$(C)+B$:D!=D!+C-B                        08A3
330 NEXT K                                           0475
340 LSET A$=B$:PUT #1,R                             095E
350 IF (R MOD 16) <> 0 THEN 370                     0A00
360 PRINT FNAT$(12,25);"Counting down from"; 31-R/16;CHR$(13) 1AD5
370 NEXT R                                           048F
380 FIELD #1, 1 AS A$, 2 AS K$, 4 AS A$, 1 AS Z$   0F94

```

The loop which begins in line 260 actually controls the whole process and must be typed in exactly otherwise dire consequences might well ensue.

```

390 FIELD #1, 1 AS A$, 1 AS A$, 1 AS B$           0C3D
400 GET #1, 13: H=ASC(A$)+ASC(B$):D!=CVI(K$)+D!   1093
410 IF D!>+32767 THEN D!=D!-65536!:GOTO 410        0F98
420 IF D!<-32768! THEN D!=D!+65536!:GOTO 420       1029
430 LSET K$=MKI$(D!):H=ASC(A$)+ASC(B$)-H          10A9
440 PUT #1,13:GET #1,16                            08ED
450 LSET Z$=LEFT$(MKI$(UNT(ASC(Z$)+H)),1)          11DC
460 PUT #1,16:CLOSE #1                             08FC
470 PRINT CHR$(27)+"e";cls$                        0A13
480 PRINT FNAT$(10,25);" Job Done - End of Chat ":END 15BE

```

The new file is created; note the tidy FIELD operations in lines 380-390. The MKI\$ function in line 430 converts strings to integers.

CHECK3.BAS

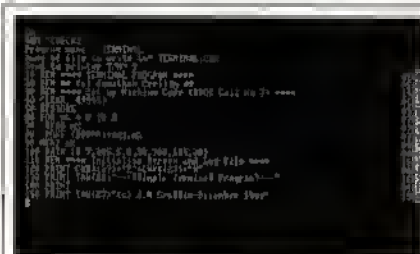
by Adrian Wilkins &
Peter Crane

The last time we published our checksum program was in October last year, six months ago. So, the time has come to bring back the old favourite for all of the

readers we've gained since then.

The listings we publish every month are printed with four-figure hexadecimal numbers at the end of each line. These are the checksum digits produced by good old Check2. Once you have typed the listing(s) in, you run the check program all you have to do then is match the numbers you get to those printed in the magazine.

This new version differs in superficial aspects to its forbear. It will produce a file which can be saved (normally with the suffix .CHK). It prints to the screen as well as giving you the option of creating 'hard copy' on your printer. The guts of the program are the same,



CHECK3 gives TERMINAL.BAS a good seeing to. The four figure numbers (yes in computer land, letters can be numbers) are hexadecimal.

and the the hex numbers generated will not differ from those produced by CHECK2.BAS.

```

10 INPUT "Program name ",prog$                    0F21
20 IF INSTR(prog$,".") = 0 THEN prog$=prog$+".bas" 14D8
30 IF FIND$(prog$)="" THEN PRINT "Program not found":PRINT:GOTO 10 21FD
40 OPEN "1",1,prog$                                07B0
50 INPUT "name of file to write to";prog2$         16A3
60 INPUT "Send to printer Y/N";ask$               11A3
70 IF UPPER$(ask$)="Y" THEN prt%=1                0F96
80 IF prog$="" THEN END                            0A0D

```

Which program do you want checked? Whatever it is, make sure that you have saved it in ASCII form! If the file is found, line 90 opens it.

3.5" DISC DRIVE

Add a 3.5" second disc drive to your 8256, 8512 or 9512. This external unit is simple to fit and acts just like the standard 3" drive B.

The drive is a TEAC mechanism and comes complete with its own in-built power supply, cable to connect it to the PCW and FULL instructions.

The drive is extremely compact and measures just 24 x 11 x 3cm. It also has an on/off switch.

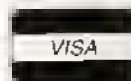
Available NOW only £99.99 + £3.00 P&P
Ten blank discs only £10.00

All prices include VAT.

Also available software to transfer data to and from other computers including the PC and compatibles.



**Siren Software, 84-86 Princess Street,
 Manchester M1 6NG
 Tel 061 228 1831**



ACCOUNTS

**Easy to
 understand!
 Easy to use!**

DOWN TO EARTH SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR PCW BOOK-KEEPING PROBLEMS

All systems offer full, versatile, high volume, complete book-keeping with Nominal Sales and Purchase Ledgers, statements, payment advices, aged balances, up to 500 Nominal ledger analysis codes, multiple coding of prime entries, easy view access, random or sequential, to any ledger account. Twin bank accounts, all necessary VAT information, Optional formats, with or without narrative

BOOK-KEEPING AND ACCOUNTS

- 3 ledger Module system
- Facility in use up to 3 data discs
- Unusual postings eg Bank Payment to Sales Ledger as single posting
- Up to 999 each Sales and Bought Ledger accounts
- Optional historic mode
- Trial balance split between capital and revenue permits profit or loss assessment at trial balance level

Version 1 - Book-keeping only.....£69.00 inc P&P

Version 3 - with invoicing and stocks.....£92.00 inc P&P

"The best system for the 9512" Chartered Accountant
"Easy to understand and operate" Book-keeper

INDEPENDENT INVOICING

£29.00
 inc P&P

A very versatile system offering three means of producing invoices, catalogue based and two freestyle types. Invoice summaries and analyses including VAT information. Based on A4 paper and 80 columns

STOCKS/INVOICING

£34.50
 inc P&P

The same invoicing system plus stock records for sale goods, at three levels: simple, simple plus dues in, simple plus dues in and out. Employs a register of entries and creates a Stock Ledger plus summary and evaluation of stocks on hand.

GOLF HANDICAP RECORDS AND REVISIONS

£29.00
 inc P&P

A complete implementation of the Standard Scratch Score and Handicapping Scheme (1983) as amended (Male only) Created in response to popular demand, Quick, simple and effective.

CLUB ACCOUNTS

£69.00
 inc P&P

- Similar to Book-keeping and Accounts
- Members ledger and journal
- Deals quickly and effectively with annual subscriptions
- Includes Bar Takings control

"A gem of a system. Three alternative quotes for a system to do the job were each over £5000" Financial Advisor
"Ideal for the job" Golf Club Secretary

DDE ACCOUNTS (DIRECT DOUBLE ENTRY)

£69.00
 inc P&P

- Single module system means freedom to post to any account from any source
- Allows narrative in nominal ledger
- Speeds up and simplifies operation

"I'd recommend it to anyone" Chartered Accountant

INDEPENDENT STOCK RECORDS

£29.00
 inc P&P

An all-purpose comprehensive system offering an immediate view FIFO based Stock Ledger, showing, base and selling prices, balances on hand at cost prices, Dues In, Dues Out, Re-order level, Re-order signal and calculation, plus priced analysis of issues and a complete stock list with valuation at cost prices. A sure winner.

With monthly Charge Account Invoicing and/or Job Invoicing.

£39.60
 inc P&P



TELEPHONE HELPLINE DIRECT TO AUTHOR - JUST ASK FOR GEORGE CLOUGH.
 GENUINE AFTER SALES ADVICE LINE AND SERVICE
MANX TAPES, GAREY VEG, GLEN AULDYN, RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN.
TELEPHONE (0624) 813071





COMPUTER REPAIRS

AMSTRAD

We repair Amstrad models 464, 664, 6128, 8256, 8512, 9512, PC1512 and Amstrad Monitors. All repairs carry a 3 month warranty.

PHONE US NOW FOR DETAILS

SUREDATA

DEPT+. UNIT 6
STANLEY HOUSE
STANLEY AVENUE
WEMBLEY MIDDX HA0 4JB

TELEPHONE: 01-902 5218

DATA - ACCESS

TEL: 0554 - 771977

Printer Ribbon Re-Inking Service

Have your FABRIC printer ribbon fully re-linked by the experts and save £££'s. Send your used FABRIC printer ribbon plus payment and we will endeavour to have it in the post and on its way back to you within 48 hours of arrival on our premises

Black - Brown - Orange - Blue - Green - Red - Purple ribbons all re-linked in original colour

Trial Offer only £1.60 per ribbon (send as many as you wish, we will even pay postage both ways!)

Send ribbon(s) plus payment to:

Data Access (Dept 8+) FREEPOST,

LLANELLI, DYFED, SA15 1ZZ (no stamp required)

>>Ribbon re-linkers to Educational & Local Authorities<<
(Special prices 1" Industrial - Commercial ribbons)

(77 Penylan - Llanelli - Dyfed SA15 1JG)

PUT THAT MANUAL DOWN - AND LISTEN!

If you want to master a new computer or program, but don't have time to waste or money to burn, a Reeltime Audio-disc training course will teach you in a fraction of the time. Just switch on your computer and play the tapes - your tutor will talk you through the course in a series of easy-to-follow exercises. Learn at your own speed on your own computer - and take as much time as you need!

AMSTRAD COURSES	Supercalc (CPC & PCW)	£29.95
Amstrad CPC6128	£29.95	
PCW 9512-Local 2	£29.95	
PCW 8256-Local 1	£29.95	
PCW 8256-Local 2	£29.95	
CPI/M Computing	£29.95	
Sinclair PC200	£29.95	
Amstrad 1640	£29.95	
Amstrad 1640 Extended	£49.95	
Amstrad PPC Portable	£29.95	
Amstrad PC2000	£49.95	
Supercalc 3 (84)	£29.95	
Wordstar Express	£29.95	
GENERAL COURSES		
IBM PC/AT Extended	£49.95	
Desktop Publishing	£49.95	
Wordstar Prof 3.3	£29.95	
dBase 2	£29.95	
Timeworks Publisher	£29.95	
Acorn RISC OS & DTP (Extended)	£49.95	
Ventura Publisher V2	£49.95	
Word Perfect 5	£49.95	
Wordstar 5/5.5	£49.95	
Supercalc 5	£49.95	
Mini Office Professional	£29.95	



All courses available by return. All prices include P+P but exclude VAT. Send your cheque to:

Headline Communication Ltd.,
PO Box 22, Hereford HR4 8UW



or phone 0602 603623 quoting your
Access or Visa number.



437 Westdale Lane, Mapperley, Nottingham, NG3 6DH.



PML, the marketing arm of KEMPSTON DATA LTD can now offer the following KEMPSTON MOUSE packs for AMSTRAD PCW owners at special low prices.

Mouse Pack

Consists of a hi-res optically encoded mouse with two high quality tactile feedback micro switched buttons and dedicated Interface that plugs directly into the expansion port at the back of the PCW.

Mouse & Software Pack

Consists of mouse, interface, DATA/ax & Jeeves. DATA/ax is the computer based personal organiser with Diary, Phonebook, Calendar and Notepad data files. Jeeves is a new desktop program that features Disk File Management, Calculator, Notepad, Calendar, Digital Clock and Phonebook.

Mouse is compatible with:

- Micro Design
- Stop Press
- Desktop Publisher
- Fleet Street Editor
- Master Paint
- DATA/ax
- Jeeves

Mouse & DTP Pack

Consists of mouse, interface and Micro Design 2. Micro Design 2 is a page processor combining the functions of Graphic Design and Desktop Publishing. Features text editing, typesetting, font design, powerful icon symbol system, full page layout facility and comprehensive graphics & file handling.

Order Code **AM25** Mouse Pack

Order Code **AM45** Mouse & Software Pack

Order Code **AM50** Mouse & DTP Pack

£49.95

£69.95

£89.95



Phone now to order by
Access/Visa



Or send your
order by post



0234 855666



(cheques payable to PML)

PML, 182A Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8BL

• A SMALL SELECTION FROM - OUR WAREHOUSE

HARDWARE & PERIPHERALS (OFFERS WHILE STOCKS LAST)	RRP	WAVE
Z88 Portable Computer Pack Inc: Z88, RAM Pk, PSU, Case etc	344.95	249.99 B
Amstrad PCW8256 Computer/Word Processor	435.85	382.27 ANC
Amstrad PCW8512 Computer/Word Processor	550.85	495.77 ANC
Amstrad PCW9512 Computer/Word Processor with Sheet Feeder	573.85	516.47 ANC
*** AMSTRAD PCW'S NOW INCLUDE ON-SITE SERVICE ***		
Amstrad Automatic Sheet Feeder & Software - PCW9512	113.85	71.16 C
Star LC10 Parallel F&T NLO Printer	297.85	152.74 A
Amstrad CPS8256 Serial/Parallel Interface - PCW	68.94	44.81 D
MCL 391 Lead, CPS8256 to Parallel Printer (Round Cable)	14.95	8.97 E
PL2 Lead, PCW9512 to Parallel Printer (Round Cable)	19.95	5.98 E
Kempston AM45 Mouse Inc. Interface & Jeeves Software - PCW	69.95	48.96 D
Amstrad FD-4 2nd 3" Disc Drive - PCW (Slate Model)	171.35	115.66 C
Printwheels - PCW9512 (9 UK Styles)	6.51	4.96 E
Printwheels - PCW9512 (119 Foreign Styles)	10.45	9.41 E

★ ★ FULL RANGE OF POPULAR PRINTER RIBBONS PLEASE PHONE FOR PRICES ★ ★

2745MS Ribbon Multistrike - PCW 9512	PKT2	7.70	4.62 F
2741FN Ribbon Fabric - PCW8256/8512	PKT2	1.98	5.00 F
2741FN Ribbon (Slate Blue, Brown, Green Purple or Red)	PKT2	1.32	6.90 F

SAVE MONEY WITH OUR TRADE PRICE LIST

STATE FOR WHICH PRODUCTS AND ENCLOSE 3 20p STAMPS

BLANK DISCS & SOFTWARE

MAXELL 3" DISCS BOX 10

DS FOR ALL 3" DRIVES + FREE PRICE LIST

RRP £29.95 ONLY £17.64 + £1.15 P&P

Locofile + Locomail 2 Pack - PCW8256/8512	49.90	37.42 C
Sage, Popular Stock & Invoicing - PCW	70.15	49.11 D
Head Cleaner 3"	3.95	3.16 F
Amself 3" Discs DS/ALL 3" Drives + FREE Price List	BOX10	29.90
Verbatim 3.5" DS/DD 135TP1 Bulk Discs C/W Labels	PKT 10	25.00
Verbatim 5.25" DS/DD 40/80T Bulk Discs C/W Labels	PKT 25	27.27
Am30L Storage Box Holds 15 Cased/30 Uncased 3"	14.95	7.90 D
Datafile 80 Storage Box Holds 50 3"/80 3.5"	23.77	6.54 D

ENG. MAINLAND post & ins. (A)£5.75 (B)£4.60 (C)£3.45 (D)£2.30 (E)£1.15 (F)50p (ANC) 3 Day £10.35 Next Day £13.80, COD+£2.30, Max. UK post chg. £6.90 per 20kg/£500. ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT. All sales subject to our Trade Terms of Trading.

W.A.V.E. (Trade Dept. 8000 490)

WALNEY AUDIO VISUAL & ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION
1 Buccleuch Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 1SR
Tel: 0229-870000 (6 lines) Hours: Mon-Fri 10.00-5.00


```

90 OPEN "O",2,prog2$                                0817
100 WHILE NOT EOF(1)                                0928
110 LINE INPUT #1,z$                                08A7
120 y$=UPPER$(z$)                                    05F8
130 check%=0 : j%=0                                  06BA
140 FOR i% = 1 TO LEN(y$)                            09BB
150 y%=ASC(MID$(y$,i%,1)) : IF y%=32 GOTO 200        1068
160 IF y% <> &HFC GOTO 180                            0A66
170 PRINT "Save it in b**** ASCII!" : END           11DC
180 j% = j% + 1                                       02FE
190 check% = check% + (y%-32) * (j% MOD 7 + 1)      0E08

```

The main program loop is the WHILE ... WEND which is born in line 100. The EOF straightforwardly stands for End of File and until the end is reached the file will keep being read into memory.

```

200 NEXT                                              0414
210 PRINT #2,z$;TAB(75);HEX$(check%,4)              0EB0
220 PRINT z$;TAB(75);HEX$(check%,4)                 0F36
230 IF prt%=1 THEN LPRINT z$;TAB(75);HEX$(check%,4) 1797
240 WEND                                              03F7
250 CLOSE 1:CLOSE 2: PRINT "done"                   1041
260 BND                                              036F

```

The print out option is taken up here. Line 210 will tidily print z\$ (the contents of the checked file) if you have so opted.

TERMINAL.BAS

by J M Crellin

For a while now, Listings Plus has been getting flak about printing too many games, fripperies and diversions and not enough technically angled programs. Well, TERMINAL.BAS aims to overturn this state of affairs. In the words of the programmer himself,

"The listing is a simple terminal program, which logs the interaction to the M: disc. TERMINAL provides a few additional features over MAIL232.COM (which comes with LocoScript).

First it allows logging of any interaction and second it does not trap some of the command keys (for example [ALT]+Z) which are necessary for communicating with many other computers (VMS for example).

Changes to line 270 (removing the REM) would allow incoming data to be displayed as

characters rather than ASCII codes (making control codes invisible).

TERMINAL.BAS can be useful when trying to work out why a comms link is not performing properly. Being a slow program it will not be able to cope with high baud rates but is should be reasonably reliable up to 300 baud.

I would see the main uses for TERMINAL being in debugging comms links and in interactive communications with another computer."

For the buffs amongst you here is the assembly language for the machine code routine set up in lines 40-100. This calls BDOS function 7 which checks the status of the input port.

This routine is a useful one for all BASIC programmers as it allows any BDOS functions to be called (provided it returns a result to register A).

This enables a programmer to reach the parts of Mallard BASIC never intended for exploration. Only the 7 in the first line need be changed to allow for different BDOS functions to be called. Lists of these functions can be found in Andrew Clarke and David Powys-Lybbe's book *'The Amstrad CP/M Plus'* (MML Systems, 11 Sun Street, London, EC2).

Assembly	Opcode	Definition
ld c, 7	14,7	Loads register C with number 7 which is the BDOS call.
call BDOS	S205,5,0	Calls BDOS
ld(addr),a	50,100,195	Loads the contents of register which is the result of BDOS call to a memory address
ret	201	Return to BASIC program

Here at 8000 Plus we were able to get an 8512 chatting away quite happily with the office Mac at 300 baud. The only problem was that no line breaks are signalled.

So, we hope that our more technically minded readers will be happy with this program. Any ideas about souping it up will of course be gratefully received.

```

10 REM **** TERMINAL PROGRAM ****                  0EB0
20 REM ** <c> Jonathan Crellin **                    0EA6
30 REM **** Set up Machine Code (BDOS Call No 7) **** 15AA
40 CLEAR, 49999!                                     0632
50 RESTORE                                           057B
60 FOR n% = 0 TO 8                                  0707
70 READ m%                                           03D8
80 POKE (50000!+n%),m%                              0770

```

The machine code routine for BDOS call 7 is carried out in lines 40-100. It will "reach the parts of Mallard BASIC never intended"

TIMATIC SYSTEMS

THE ORIGINAL WINCHESTER EXPANSION

NEW LOW PRICE for the best 20 megabyte Hard Disk for all PCW's. Official Hard Disk version of CPM and LocoScript supplied with each WEB. Always supplied with expansion port for other devices and SCSI controller, together with the usual Timatic support utilities. Can be configured as 1, 2 or 4 drives. £ 449.00

CAMELION MULTIFORMAT SOFTWARE

Read other 5 1/4" formats on the 5 1/4" Drive, including ICL, IBM, Osborne, PCW and CPC. £ 39.00

5 1/4" 2nd. PCW DRIVE

The original T DOS software INCLUDED with this Drive, allows transfer to and from PC format disks. Also available for CPC. £159.00

MEGAMATE

Megamate gives you everything you require to add a 3 1/2" 1.44 MB disk drive to your PC, including the full Amstrad range. Supplied with a controller card the Megamate will read 720 and 1.44 MB floppy disks. Includes support software for MSDOS. £ 149.00

DATA TRANSFER - MOVING TO A PC

Do you require 3" data on 5 1/4" for any reason? We can copy your data to over 480 different CPM and PC formats. If you are considering upgrading to a new machine then talk to us first, you may well be able to use your existing data, even from programs such as LocoScript, dBase, Basic etc. Charge per disk transferred, plus any media used. £ 10.00

MOVING UP TO A PC - HAVE NO FEAR - UNIFORM IS HERE

Uniform PC will allow you to READ and WRITE your old CP/M disks with a suitable drive connected to the PC. We can also provide controller cards to allow you to connect any size drive to your PC including 8 inch. Uniform-PC lets you READ and WRITE data from over 400 CP/M machines, including the Amstrad PCW range. £ 69.95

UNIDOS Z80 PC

Run PCW accounts programs on the PC. Unidos Z80 is a computer on a card that fits into the PC and will let you run programs like Sage Accounts or Payroll WITHOUT needing to change the software. £ 139.00

Postage is free. Please add VAT to the above prices. Please send 6 x 9 s.a.e for catalogue.

Timatic Systems Ltd., 7 Palmerston Business Park, Newgate Lane, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 1DJ.

Telephone (0329) 239953/236727 Fax (0329) 237051 for Sales and MasterCard/Visa Orders.

OVER
4000
USERS

STOCK MARKET

OVER
4000
USERS

THE COMPREHENSIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM!

STOCKMARKET is a program designed to help you plan your investments and keep a close and careful watch on their progress. It enables you to record full details of your purchases and sales of stocks, shares, unit trusts and other securities. Dividends can be recorded as they are received. If required, cash balances in savings accounts can also be monitored as stocks are bought and sold. It also lets you record and plot prices of shares, unit trusts, exchange rates, indexes etc.

STOCKMARKET does not have to be used only with your real investments. We all see shares recommended in a newspaper or magazine that we think will do well. Six months later if the price has gone up we wish that we had trusted our judgement. If the price has fallen we quietly forget it. With STOCKMARKET you can record details of as many shares folios as you want. These can include hypothetical folios of 'hot stocks', recovery shares, penny shares or whatever you choose. You can practise buying and selling shares and see how well you do!

The program is easy to use and comes complete with a comprehensive manual and demonstration files including real price information going back several years for several shares (inc FT 30 index, British Telecom, Amstrad, Marks & Spencers) so that you can plot graphs straight away.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

- Record full details of your portfolios of stocks, shares, unit trusts etc.
- Practise buying and selling and accurately record your progress.
- Up to fifty shares per folio. As many folios as you like.
- Buy and sell shares with automatic calculation of dealing costs.
- Ten sets of dealing costs which you can alter as necessary.
- Record dividend yields and price earnings ratios.
- Update prices and automatically recalculate share and folio values.
- Record tax credits (not CPC) and dividend payments.
- List one year's information for the tax man (not CPC).
- Keep records of your cash as you buy and sell.
- List your present folio, past transactions, dividends and cash accounts.

PRICE ANALYSIS

- Record values of share prices, unit trusts, indexes, exchange rates etc.
- Store up to 260 prices per share (equivalent to weekly prices for 5 years).
- List all the prices for each share.
- Plot prices and moving averages on a logarithmic or linear scale.
- Choose any period for moving averages. Plot them separately or superimpose them on the price.
- Automatic scaling of graphs so they always fill whole screen.
- Easy to read scales for prices and dates (not just week numbers).
- Complete with real weekly prices for several shares for the last few years (inc FT 30, British Telecom) as a demonstration.
- Use curves as a guide to the best buying and selling opportunities.

Comprehensive fifty page manual. Complete with demonstration account and prices.

AMSTRAD PC, PPC, IBM PC and compatibles £39-95

AMSTRAD PCW £39-95

(AMSTRAD CPC (disc) £29-95)

Prices are all inclusive worldwide. Send cheque or phone any day (including weekends) from 8am to 9pm and quote credit card number for immediate delivery by first class post.

38 Balcaskie Road, London, SE9 1HQ. Tel: 01-850 7057

MERIDIAN
software



90 NEXT n%	04C7
100 DATA 14,7,205,5,0,50,100,195,201	0A86
110 REM **** Initialise Screen and Log File ****	15A4
120 PRINT CHR\$(27)+"E"+CHR\$(27)+"H"	0BB2
130 PRINT TAB(26)"--- (Simple Terminal Program)---	16D3
140 PRINT	046F
150 PRINT TAB(27)"(c) J.M.Crellin-December 1989"	1509
160 PRINT	0475
170 PRINT TAB(25)"Interaction is logged to M:TERMINAL.LOG:"	1E00
180 PRINT:PRINT TAB(30)" Press [EXIT] key to quit"	1AEA
190 PRINT	047E
200 OPEN "O",1,"M:TERMINAL.LOG"	0E53
210 REM **** Event Loop ****	0B71
220 WHILE k%<>27	069C
230 z=50000!:CALL z	071B

The main event loop! This calls the machine code routine in line 230. It also checks to see if the number 255 is in a memory location. If so, there must be incoming data waiting.

240 WHILE PEEK(50020!)=255	0965
250 x%=INP(&HE0)	060C
260 OUT &HE0, x%	06EF
270 PRINT CHR\$(x%);:PRINT #1 CHR\$(x%);	1040
280 REM PRINT x%;:PRINT #1 x%;	0E59
290 POKE(50020!),0	063D
300 WEND	03ED
310 k%=INKEY\$	0522
320 IF k%<>" " THEN k%=ASC(k%)	0B35
330 IF k%<>27 THEN OUT &HE0,k%:PRINT k%;:PRINT #1 k%;:k%=" "	1872
340 IF k%=13 THEN PRINT:k%=0	0C9D

Keypresses are checked here. Have you pressed [EXIT]? Line 330 will tell you. A carriage return is checked out by line 340

350 WEND	03FC
360 REM **** Close File and Shutdown ****	1242
370 CLOSE	0428
380 END	0377

End of the road for this listing, now use CHECK3 to make sure it's all ok

How type in Listings.

First get Mallard BASIC running. To do this take your CP/M disc - not the Master disc, but a copy - and type BASIC at the A> prompt.

BASIC has been loaded when the A> disappears and is replaced by ok. Now you're ready to type the listings as they appear line by line except for the four figure hex numbers which appear at the end of each line; these are check digits.

When you've finished typing a line check it for typing errors. When you're certain everything is correct press [RETURN]. If, before this, you find a mistake then cursor back to it and make the correction. Once you're happy go on to the next line.

If you spot an error after you've moved on you can type EDIT followed by the line number. Edit the line using the cursor keys and make changes using [DEL]. Press [RETURN] and the line will be accepted in the corrected form.

When you've finished typing the program you should type LIST. This will print the listing on the screen. If you want a printout type LLIST. Now, think up a file name such as "a:NEWCHAR, don't worry about using .bas after it. The name should be no longer than eight letters. To save your program type SAVE followed by the filename you chose. If you want to make use of the checksum program in this month's issue, you should save your file in the following way;

SAVE "A:NEWCHAR.BAS",a
The "a" at the end of the line saves the file in ASCII form so that it can be read

by CHECK3.BAS. In fact it can even be read by a word processor such as LocoScript or Protext.

The next thing to do is type RUN. If the program runs first time you're in luck. If not, don't worry it happens to us all. You will probably get an error message with a line number. This might not be the exact line but it will narrow down the search.

Some people even feel that this debugging of a program is more of an intellectual challenge than writing it in the first place! In fact, copying the listing(s) from the magazine is only the first step. If you do get everything right first time, why not try making some deliberate mistakes to see how they affect the program? If you don't get it right ... remember the programmer's credo, "It in doubt RTFM" (Read The Flipping Manual!).

The dreaded up arrow - how to get it

One point which seems to have vexed many of our readers is how to get the up-arrow or Exponential (to the power of) sign. Although it comes out on screen as ↑, it will print out on paper as ^ . To avoid this, the key combination you need to use is as follows:

[EXTRA]+U

So now you know - and please, please pass it on to your friends.

DISCOUNT SOFTWARE

FOR THE PCW 8256, 8512 & 9512

WORD PROCESSING

Protext (Full Version)	39.95
Protext Office	29.95
Locoscript 2	21.95
24-pin printer driver disc	21.95
Locospell (for Loco 2)	18.95
Locoscript 2 & Locospell	31.95
LocoMail (for Loco 2)	28.95
LocoFile (state if 9512)	28.95
LocoMail and LocoFile	44.95
3 rd Thesaurus (for LocoFile)	11.95
LocoFont I	18.95
LocoFont II	13.95
Supertype II Font Program	12.95
Tasword 8000	17.95
TasSpell	11.95
TasPrint (extra fonts)	10.95

MJC SPECIAL:

PROTEXT CPM

Full Version including Spellchecking
& powerful Mail-Merge routines.

RRP £59.95

OUR PRICE JUST £39.95

DATABASES

Masterfile 8000	34.95
LocoFile (8256/8512)	28.95
LocoFile (9512)	28.95
At Last Plus	29.95
Cornix Card Index (8256/8512)	25.95
Cornix Card Index (9512)	25.95
Minerva First Base	25.95

TUTORIAL

French Mistress	15.95
German Master	15.95
Spanish Tutor	15.95
Italian Tutor	15.95
Jansyst Crash Course Typing	19.95
Jansyst Two Finger Typing	19.95

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL

Cornix Invoicing	45.95
Cornix Simple Accounts II	55.95
Cornix Job Estimator	59.95
Cornix Product Costing	59.95
Digital's DG Payroll(8512/9512 only)	29.95
Money Manager Plus	32.95
Money Manager PCW	39.95
Personal Tax Planner	19.95
Plan-It (Home Accounts)	15.95
Stockmarket (Share Analysis)	32.95
Supercalc 2	55.95
Minerva First calc	25.95
Mini Office Professional	25.95

DESKTOP / GRAPHICS

Desktop Publisher	19.95
Stop Press	Limited Stock at 29.95
Micro Design 2	54.95
Masterpaint (graphics)	Withdrawn
Masterscan (optical scanner)	54.95
N.B. Masterscan is for 8256/8512 only	
Masterpack (Scan & Paint)	59.95

DON'T BLAME DATABASE

Due to problems with an
overseas supplier
Database Software have
suspended sales of all
AMX Mouse packages.
This situation is not
expected to change until
June

IT'S BACK

The Original MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL

Since the release of Mini Office
Professional Plus, customers have been
asking for the original program. No spell
checker, no thesaurus, just the original five
modules, comprising Word Processor,
excellent Spreadsheet, Database,
Presentation Graphics and
Communications. They would also prefer a
new manual and/or a copy of the John
Hughes "All In One..." book.
Now you can have both!!

MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL
RRP £39.95 **OUR PRICE £25.95**

DOT MATRIX PRINTERS

Suitable for 9512 and supplied with
necessary cable.

Citizen 120-D	139.95
Panasonic KXP-1081	159.95
Star LC-10 Mark 1	179.95
Star LC-10 Mark 2 (quicker)	199.95
Star LC24-10 (call for advice)	259.95
Prices include normal 12 month 'return to dealer' guarantee. For 12 month on- site Service Contract just add £5.00.	

PROGRAMMING

Amor C Compiler	39.95
Hisoft C Compiler	39.95
Nevada Cobol	39.95
Hisoft Pascal 80	39.95
Hisoft Devpac 80 V2	39.95
Maxam II	39.95
Hisoft Forth	18.95

GAMES

Bridge Player 2150	24.95
Classic Collection 1 (not 9512)	11.95
Classic Collection 2 (not 9512)	11.95
Classic Games 4	15.95
Clock Chess '89	15.95
Colossus Chess 4	11.95
Corruption	19.95
Guild of Thieves	19.95
Head Coach v3	13.95
Jinxter	19.95
Lancelot	15.95
PCW Challenge (not 9512)	11.95
Scapeghost	15.95
Star Glider	19.95
Tomahawk	15.95
Trivial Pursuit	15.95
World of Soccer	13.95

BOOKS

All In One Mini Office	11.95
Mallard Basic	9.95
Program Your PCW	7.95
Programming the Z80	19.95
PCW Machine Code	13.95
CP/M Bible	16.95

CONSUMABLES

Amsoft or Maxell CP 2's (as available)	
10 off	23.95
5 off	13.00
PCW 8256/8512 RIBBONS	
Standard 14m Fabric Each	3.95
two	7.00
Higher quality/density fabric	4.95
PCW 9512 RIBBONS	
Amstrad brand Film Multistrike	3.95
Box of 12	42.00
Unbranded continuous fabric	2.95

N.B. Fabric ribbons do not give as good a print quality as film/continuous ribbon even when new, but as they are continuous will last a lot longer. Recommended for draft copies or in-house printing.

MISCELLANEOUS

PCW 8256/8512 Dust Cover Set	9.95
PCW 9512 Dust Cover Set	10.95
PCW 8xxx Printer extension lead	11.95
PCW 9512 Printer extension lead	12.95
1000 Fan-fold address labels	6.95
3" Disc Head Cleaner	6.95
PCW 9512 Daisywheels: All at	£5.95
choose from:	
Courier (10)	Orator (10)
Script (12)	Prestige Elite (12)
Recta (10)	Thesis (Prop)
Letter Gothic (10/12)	Mini Gothic (15)

All prices INCLUDE VAT, postage and packaging
Overseas orders welcome - please write for prices

MJC SUPPLIES (PLS)

40a QUEEN STREET, HITCHIN, HERTS, SG4 9TS.

Tel: (0462) 432897 / 420847 / 421415 for Enquiries/Credit orders
CALLERS WELCOME Mon to Fri 9.30 - 5.00, Sat 10.00 - 4.00



STALKING THE WILD EDITOR

I am reliably informed that 8000 Plus is read by hordes of aspiring authors, eager for insights into the strange ways of the editorial mind. In the hope of gratifying this prurient interest, I polled SF/fantasy editors to discover the pitfalls of word-processed submissions. Out of curiosity I also asked how much of the material was recognisably produced by LocoScript. Now, in a flourish of inadequate sampling, I reveal all.

...Or nearly all. I was soon reminded that editors are constantly overwhelmed by their work of sifting the million or so books submitted each year, to decide the 50,000-odd that are published. Gollancz was busy changing editors during my survey, and Pan was busy relaunching its fantasy, SF and horror lines, while my contacts at NEL and Futura must have been busy in the pub.

Malcolm Edwards of Graton Books began with a careful distinction: "I'd think that of the unsolicited UK submissions, a quarter to a third are done on the old Amstrad. These days, published authors tend to have a better class of printer, at least, and often have cheap IBM clones."

Note that all unpublished authors, barring a few famous politicians, media stars and murderers, will land on the "unsolicited" heap — otherwise known as the slushpile.

Perfecting presentation

Malcolm Edwards lists his unfavourite things as: "(1) authors who think that the ribbons last as long as the computer, and that the extra wait involved in printing out NLQ pages is more important than my eyesight; (2) the fact that authors who no longer have to retype everything seem to use the time saved in writing longer books instead of using it to write better books of the same length."

Deborah Beale of Century Hutchinson goes on: "It drives me mad if I'm sent continuous paper print-outs, where the author hasn't bothered to separate the pages.

Also I loathe right-hand justification. The monotony of such a neat page sends my eyes funny, and often, sort of like the white-noise hiss of air conditioning, sends me to sleep."

Continuous paper is simply difficult to manage, especially for editors who nobly catch up on their reading in the train, armchair or pub.

David Pringle of Interzone bewails the side-effects of this magazine's increasing circulation: "The quantity of unsolicited submissions seems to be going up and up. While one ought to be grateful, it's true that they can be such a pain in the [now, now — Ed.]. Perhaps my main complaint is that so many people don't even bother to obtain a copy of the magazine before submitting. There seem to be endless thousands of aspiring SF writers who get all their information from *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* and nowhere else..."

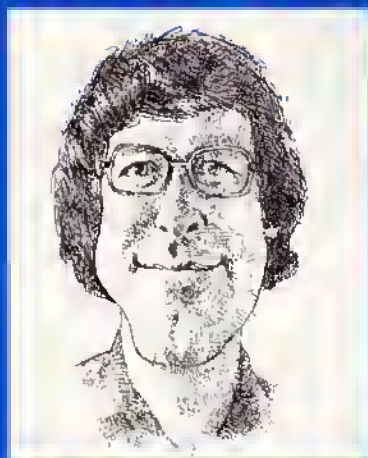
Identify your market

The point is that every magazine has its own indelible 'feel'. If you write a thrilling story headlined RAMBO VICAR IN SEX ROMP MERCY DASH, its undeniable connection with religion may not impress the editor of *Church News*. Likewise, a scholarly and literate article on UFOs would obviously be rejected out of hand by the *Sunday Sport*. Unless you like wasting postage, it's vital to study your market.

David Sutton of *Fantasy Tales* castigates the evils of "cramming a 30-page story folded into four in a standard letter envelope... text running across the whole width of the page with no discernible margins... no indentation of paragraphs... no return postage!"

This reminds me of once receiving a carefully unsealed envelope which had been laboriously embossed with several ~~artistic impressions of the editor~~. The letter inside achieved a final stroke of unconvincingness with: "PS, I hope your postman does not steal the return postage

LANGFORD



A page in the company of author and PCW pundit
David Langford

enclosed...". Full marks for enterprise and economy. The MS went into the bin.

Another niggler from David Sutton: "I occasionally get a MS with the title page set out as though produced on a desktop publishing system, with a flourish of different typetaces for title, author, word count, address, and computer system used! There's no reason why I should hate this except jealousy..."

That is, editors want functional, readable text, and react badly to ornaments which are the typographical equivalent of submitting work on deckle-edged lavender writing paper impregnated with perfume.

"Unaccustomed as I am..."

Wayne of *GM* magazine doesn't confine his gripes to amateurs: "Writers either can't count or badly miss the option of a word counter — especially on Amstrads. We informed readers that we were after short stories of up to 1000 words absolute maximum, to take up one magazine page. What happened? The average length of ~~the submitted stories~~ submitted to us was around 1800 words!"

"When we asked 'name' authors to submit short stories

of no more than 4800 words, they too went over the top. Most averaged around 6500 and one established author exceeded 8000. The excuses? The amateurs are honest and state that excitement plus lack of a word counter made them overestimate. The professionals put it down to artistic licence."

If you don't fancy investing in word-count software, it's worth hand-counting one big chunk of typical print-out in your normal format, to give a basis for future estimates. Be careful not to include scanty pages of dialogue — "What?" he said. "You know," she snapped. "No I don't." "Yes you do." "No I don't..." — unless of course you write like this all the time.

The last word

Finally, most of the editors in my amazingly wide-ranging survey felt that around 25% of their submissions were detectably matrix-printed on a PCW. *GM*, being largely a specialist market (SF/fantasy games) with strong amateur involvement, was exceptional at 65%.

To draw statistical conclusions from this sample would be mean. Instead, please consult Havelock Ellis's *Psychology of Sex* to learn the standard deviation. ■

TIP OFFS

T Tips
Q Questions

Step into the new financial year with Tipoffs

Is LocoScript too taxing? CP/M proving uneconomical? Find it's not paying to use BASIC? Trouble working out your RETURNS? Then turn to Tipoffs: If you have a problem, we can budge it.

In the red briefcase this month is vital information on LocoScript, LocoFile, MicroDesign, CP/M and Protext. Lloyd Davls of Epsom wins £10, less tax, for tackling a high-powered problem, and CA Child of Derby gets £10 for boxing clever with LocoScript. Andrew Griave of Gooke is £30 better off for giving all you lucky LocoMail (and 9512) owners a complete accounts package program!

If you have any PCW tips to declare, don't tell the Inland Revenue, tell us - we pay hard cash for the best ones. Send your tips and queries to Tipoffs, 8000 Plus, 30 Monmouth St, Bath BA1 1EJ.

Put on your Mac

Q Is it possible to get a program that can format a disc in a 3.5 inch drive on a PCW so an Apple Macintosh can read it?
Harry Pattinson, Staffs

8000 PLUS: No. The only way of transferring text between the two machines is via an RS232 interface and cable. You then need a comms program on the PCW to send the text (we use Dialup from PMS Communications, though PIP can do the job) and on the Mac to receive the text (we use Red Ryder or Microsoft Works).

Film 90

Q Cling film is useful to protect your keyboard from dust, dirt and coffee spills. It can also be useful if you use the Cyrillic, Greek or Symbol 'super shift' character sets in LocoScript 2.

Place the cling film on the keyboard and then put a small circular sticker, available from most stationers, over the relevant keys, with the 'super shift' letter or symbol written on it.

You can keep a different cling film for each foreign language!
Ian Chisnall, Bolton

Bottling up the whine

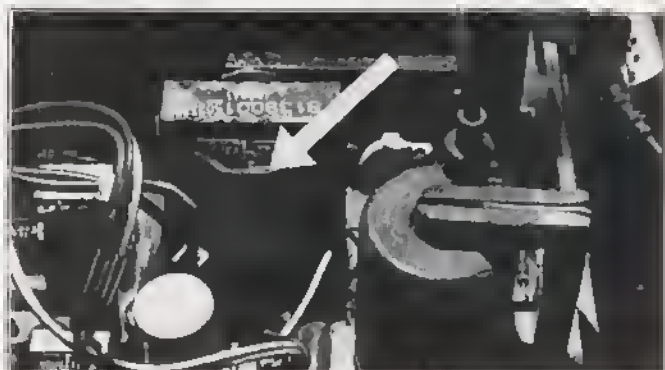
Q My PCW recently began to emit a high-pitched whine once it warmed up - the sort of noises you commonly hear from televisions. It occasionally stopped, momentarily ceasing when the printer motor operated.

I traced the source to a transformer, bearing the numbers **8139001 5031M (502A)**, whose address is Lower Circuit Printed Board, near Heat-Sink, Opposite side of Monitor to Chips.

After leaving it unplugged from the mains overnight to make sure any residual charge had dissipated, wearing a rubber glove, I opened the back by unscrewing the obvious screws

and lifting off the casing. Then I squirted superglue into the gaps between the outer wrapping and the circular capping, where the coil windings are just visible. Transformer formers (or cores) are often made of laminated pieces of metal, but this one appears to be solid. As it can't be the laminations vibrating, I thought maybe it was windings vibrating their way out of their lacquer coating. Anyway, it's quieter now!

I wouldn't recommend this to anyone unless you are very, very careful and well insured, and have an extremely noisy PCW!
Harry Pattinson, Rudgeley, Staffs



For electronics bulls with very sensitive ears: this is where the superglue can finish off that whine

Interface the facts

Q I am rather in the dark concerning interfaces: RS232, CPS8256, SCA Interface... are they basically the same?
AS Butterworth, Derby

8000 PLUS: Yes, they are. 'RS232' is the general name given to the type of interface that you put on the back of your PCW and which lets you connect it up to a different printer, or to another computer. For example, these words are being written on a PCW. The words will be transferred to an Apple Macintosh via an RS232 interface and cable and these words then typeset into the form you see in front of you using a specialist page makeup program.

You can also use an RS232 to connect your PCW to a device called a modem and thence to the phone lines. You can then access other people's computers, bring up Prestel on your screen, do certain transactions with your bank via the PCW and so on. If you managed to break into your local

council's computer to wipe out your name from the Poll Tax register (by basically ringing it up, giving the correct password then following the menus) this would be 'hacking'.

The CPS8256 is a make of RS232 interface. Some interfaces give you an RS232 with extra bits added. For example, SCA had an interface which adds a clock to an RS232 so that your PCW always knows what time it is.

They also do an interface (the RAM, or memory, interface) which simply gives you extra memory on your PCW, and doesn't have an RS232 interface in it. (Though you can stick an RS232 on the back of the memory interface). Other 'single purpose' interfaces like this might be the Kempston Mouse interface (which let you plug a mouse into the back of your PCW) or MIDI interfaces (which let your PCW record and control the playback of synthesizers and other electronic instruments) or even musical interfaces (which add a three-channel sound to your PCW enabling it to play tunes. I've got one and I know of no-one else who has!). These last ones are really just adaptors, if you like.

Correction treatment

Q A correction to the 'Characteristic tip' in 8000 Plus issue 41, page 67. Some parts of the LocoMail routine that lets you merge just some of the records in the data file into a LocoFile file were garbled - I left a bit out too! The test that doesn't work is

`(+Mail)#Date>"30 9 89":<:':>(-Mail)`

and the opening of the document should be as follows:

```
(+Mail)$#Date="":<:Test="":Flag=0
#Test="":<:$="":$999":>
#Flag=0:<:Start=?;Date of
beginning of relevant period
Finish=?;Next date after relevant
period
$$Finish:Next_date=Date
$$Start:Flag=1:>(-Mail)
```

while the end of document test is

```
(+Mail)$#Date="":<:Test="":
#Date=Next_date:<:Test="":>(-Mail)
Martin Grieg, Coventry
```

8000 PLUS: Thanks for putting things straight.

Common problem

WINNER

Q In Tipoffs in issue 42, H Frost wanted to know how to install a program or portion of code in common memory, i.e. C000 to FFFF.

This program demonstrates the use of LDIR to move blocks of code. In this case, to move code into common memory so that it may be accessed from any bank.

The program is simply constructed as LDIR requires few instructions to do a large task. Its requirements are that OE holds the memory location to which the code is to be transferred (in this case C000h), HL holds the location of the beginning of the block to be moved and BC holds the size of the block in bytes (obtained by subtracting the start address from the end address).

After naming some labels for BDOS functions and the destination address we ORG the program at 100h so that it will run in the TPA. Then comes the code for LDIR which loads the registers as explained above. Once this is done all that remains is to print a message using BDOS function 9 telling the user that the instruction has been successfully completed.

The program then jumps to 0000h to perform a warm boot. The rest of the program will contain the code which the user requires in common memory. To test LOCATE you need LOCATE.COM and access to SIO.COM (perhaps on drive M). Simply type 'LOCATE' at the A> prompt. The message will appear after a second or so and the message between OLOST and OLOEND will be located at C000h onwards. To check this out type 'SID' and 'OC000' at SID's prompt. The contents of C000 onwards will be dumped on the screen and the message should be read from the ASCII section.

The great advantage of using LOIR in this way is that it is very fast even if the code that you are transferring is quite large. The only problem I can envisage with creating huge chunks of code to go above C000 is writing over BDOS. This is not going to happen though unless the code is more than about 12K, and that's a lot in machine code terms. The 'mover' code itself only takes up 19 bytes and only 10 if you leave the message printing out.

LOCATE.ZSM - by L Davis

```
RBOOT    EQU 0           ;WARM BOOT
BDOS      EQU 5           ;BDOS ENTRY
PSTR      EQU 9           ;BDOS PRINT STRING FUNCTION
NEWST     EQU OC000H

ORG 0100H           ;ORGANISE IN TPA

MOVE:     LD  DE,NEWST    ;LOAD DE WITH NEW START LOCATION
          LD  HL,OLDST     ;LOAD HL WITH OLD START LOCATION
          LD  BC,OLDEND-OLDST ;LOAD BC WITH THE NUMBER OF BYTES
          LDIR                ;AND CATAPULT THEM UP!
          LD  DE,MESS      ;POINT TO THE SIGN-ON MESSAGE
          LD  C,PSTR        ;AND PRINT IT
          CALL BDOS         ;USING OUR TRUSTY FRIEND IN HIGH MEMORY
          JP  RBOOT         ;THEN TODDLE BACK TO CP/M

MESS      OEFB 'YOUR CODE HAS ARRIVED'; OR SOME OTHER HELPFUL MESSAGE

OLDST:     EQU $           ;START LABEL

          DEFB 'THIS LITTLE MESSAGE' ; PUT YOUR CODE IN HERE
          DEFB 'SHOULD NOW APPEAR'  ; AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE AS LONG
          DEFB 'AT NEWST (C000H)'    ; AS IT'S BETWEEN THE TWO LABELS
          RET

OLDEND:     EQU $           ;END LABEL

          END               ;FINISH ASSEMBLY
```

Lloyd Davis, Epsom

8000 PLUS: Thanks very much - I think this has to be worth a tenner! If Mr Frost can send us an sae we can pass on a disc with this program on it, which Mr Davis very kindly sent.

The bogeyman was here

Q How on earth did that text saying VAFINSTR.001 get up there? It is the title of a letter which I wrote a long time ago and have since deleted. Graeme MacLennan, Maidstone, Kent

8000 PLUS: It's the name of your disc. If you press [F2] in the disc manager and

move down to 'Rename disc' you can give a new name to replace the VAFINSTR.001 business. What must have happened is that you've entered it by accident in 'Rename disc' instead of copying a file (on the adjacent [F3]) perhaps. As far as I know, there's no way of actually removing a name altogether in LocoScript, though you can do it in CP/M using 'SET'.

C=Create new document		Disc management	
f1=Actions		f2=Disk	f3=File
f4=Group		f5=Edit document	
Drive A:	161k used 12k free 14 files	Drive B:	0k used
group 1	0k	group 4	0k
group 2	0k	group 5	0k
group 3	0k	group 6	0k
group 0	14 files	group 7	0k
M: group 0	14 files	M: group 0	6 fi

Down in the dumps

Q It is often useful to get a screen dump (i.e. a printed image of the screen display) from programs such as Money Manager, LocoScript and so on. Unfortunately the printer always lines the image up against the extreme left edge of the paper, making it look messy if you want to include the screen dump in the middle of a page of text which has normal margins.

Is it possible to offset the print

head to make the dump appear in the middle of the paper?

Klaus Koch, Hamburg

8000 PLUS: Yes, though I'm not sure if it does the printer any good! If you lift off the black top plate and gently push the print head along with your hand, it will move along. When it's at the right place for the left hand edge of the screen dump, press [EXTRA] [PTR] as normal and the image will be printed right there instead of the left hand edge.

After you've finished, reset the printer by pressing [F1], moving the cursor to 'Reset', and pressing [F1]. Leave with [EXIT].

Phrasing it right

T Some tips for Protex. 1. Some useful phrases to put in your EXFILE: KEY L "A24^u^0^r^A24^u^13^" will insert a line drawn from the left to the right margin whenever you press [EXTRA] L KEY D Protex asks you to enter a phrase. Give the date. Then, to insert the date in a document, just press [EXTRA] O. Make sure this is the last thing in your EXFILE or it won't work.

2. DCOPY is pretty useless on a PCW 8512 as it won't copy a B disc to a B disc. So, replace DCOPY.COM on your disc by OISCKIT.COM - it gives you the B-to-B facility and can be accessed by typing 'OISCKIT[RETURN]' from within Protex.

3. Printing in condensed style can be a headache. Fine for less than a page, but if you want

and tooters, it can be impossible. It keeps reverting to pica, making a real mess!

The problem is that [ALT] XC turns condensed both on and off; the best solution is to alter the printer driver. Put the utilities disc in your drive and type SETPRINT. Insert your Protex disc and take the 'load printer driver' option, giving PCW.PTR as the file to load.

Now choose 3, Set Printer Control Codes. Move the cursor down to 'condensed' in the new screen and press [RETURN]. You see a 15 appear at the bottom next to 'on' and an 18 next to 'off'. Delete the 18.

Press [STOP] and go back to condensed which should now say just 'on'. [STOP] again to go back to the main SETPRINT menu, press 7 to save the new printer driver, and then press 0 to leave. Your condensed problems should now be over!

Jack Bonnor,

Micro tips

T Micro Design is a fine Desk Top Publisher but can be a little confusing at times as regards scale drawings — and it can be very useful to get the scale just right for applications such as cassette inlays, video box covers, disc boxes, and anything where the design must fit in a specific sized space. Here are a few guidelines to make life easier.

1. The scale supplied on the Icons and Areas disc should be printed out at normal size from a 64K A4 upright page format. This shows you a horizontal comparison of centimetres to blocks of 8 pixels. You can jump along a screen in the Design Section in blocks of 8 pixels by pressing **[ALT]** plus a cursor key.

2. Unfortunately a vertical comparison is not supplied so you will have to put one on yourself with a pen and ruler. It may help to remember that:

Horizontal scale	$1\text{cm}=2.96$
blocks of 8	
Vertical scale	$1\text{cm}=2.2/3$
blocks of 8	

Once you have drawn it with a ruler and seen how the cm marks

cut the 8-pixel block scale, you may wish to adapt the scale in Micro Design 2 and print out this new scale.

3. To make sure these scales are always to hand cut and trim the horizontal and vertical scales separately and stick with blutack the horizontal one along the black printer flap and the other one down the left hand edge of the printer – as in the diagram

4. Sometimes the things you will be designing will be too big to do easily in the Design Section so you will have to use the Layout Section. On here you must remember that pressing **[ALT]** and a cursor key moves in jumps of 32 pixels, i.e. four times as far. So something that was 24 blocks (of 8) in the Design Mode would only need 6 blocks (of 32) in the Layout Section.

5. If you intend your design to be detailed you can opt to make it twice the size initially and then either print half size or load the design into a screen format with higher definition (e.g. 64K page to 256K page). This is a simple method of multiplying all numbers you got from the printed scale by 2.

**Peter Whelerton,
Middlesbrough**

Spaced out

T On the database in Mini Office Professional, every number entered takes up 20 spaces and is right-justified – very annoying and messy looking on screen, though they can be suppressed on printout. Is there any way round this?


**MC Dickens,
Dereham, Norfolk**

8000 PLUS: No. However you can eliminate the spaces on printout, as you

say, if you define a format. When you come to print out, define a format by taking 'Edit Report/Label' from the main menu. One option on the next menu is 'suppress excess spaces', which is the one you want. The numbers now occupy as much space as they need instead of just 20 spaces.

Unfortunately, again as you suspect, this causes problems if you have numbers of different lengths. There is a 'Modify TAB settings' option, but this seems to have no effect. All I can suggest is that you use the `format` fields providing you don't need them for totals or calculations.

Boxing clever, justifiably



WINNER

LT You can use LocoScript to put justified text in a box like the one shown here. It sounds complicated, but it isn't really – here's how to do it.

First you have to create two layouts, Layout 1 for the box border characters, and Layout 2 for the text. Let's say the box has margins at 10 and 40, and the text margins at 13 and 37.

LocoScript 2: In the document press [F1] and [ENTER] for 'Document Setup'. Press [F2] 'Layout' and then 'change stock layouts'. Move down to Layout 1 and [ENTER]. Place the margins at 10 and 40 by moving the cursor and pressing [F1], selecting the appropriate margin, and [ENTER]. [EXIT] and move down to Layout 2. Place the margins similarly at 13 and 37. Press [F8] 'Options' and select 'Justify' by pressing [+]. Then press [F4] 'Size' and select Line Spacing 0 using the cursors and [ENTER]. [EXIT] [ENTER] [EXIT] [ENTER] takes you back to the main document.

LocoScript 1: In the document press [f2] 'Layout' and move down to 'Edit Layout' - 'Layout ??', then press 1 [ENTER]. You are put in the layout editing screen. Move down with the cursor into the ruler line and move the cursor to 10, then press [1]. Move the cursor to 40, then press [12]. Leave by pressing [EXIT]. Now, back in the main document, press [f2], select 'Edit Layout' - 'Layout ??' but give 2 as the number. This time before moving down into the ruler line, move along with the cursor to 'Line Spacing' and press 0[ENTER]. Move along to 'Justify' and press [+]. Then move down into the ruler line by pressing the cursor. Put the left margin at 13 and the right at 37 as before. [EXIT] back to the main document.

Here are the steps once you've set the layouts as above.

1. Press **[+] LT1 [ENTER]** to select the first layout. Type the top line of the border making it exactly the width of the layout. End the line with a carriage return. (The LocoScript 2 manual has details of all the fancy characters you can use for the border, though a 9512 printer is restricted to what's on the daisywheel, of course).

2. Now type a second line with just two border characters at the extreme left and right of the line. To do this, enter the border character, then press **[+RJ]** (**[+RA]** in LocoScript 2) and enter the second character. End with a **[RETURN]**.

3. Type in a repeat of the second line, but this time insert a **[+]** **LS0** **[RETURN]** before the **[RETURN]**.

4. Enter **[+]** **LT2** **[ENTER]**. Type your text in the normal way letting LocoScript justify it. Make sure it's in the final form as you can't change it after this stage.

5. Go back to the first line of text and put the cursor at the end of the line using **[EOL]**.

6. Type in following sequence: six to ten hard spaces (obtained by pressing **[+] [SPACE]**) then **[+] LT1 [ENTER] [RETURN]**. Then enter a border character, **[+] LSO [ENTER]**, **[+] RJ** (**[+] RA** in Logo 2).

another border character, a [RETURN],
[+]**LT2** [ENTER] and a final [RETURN].

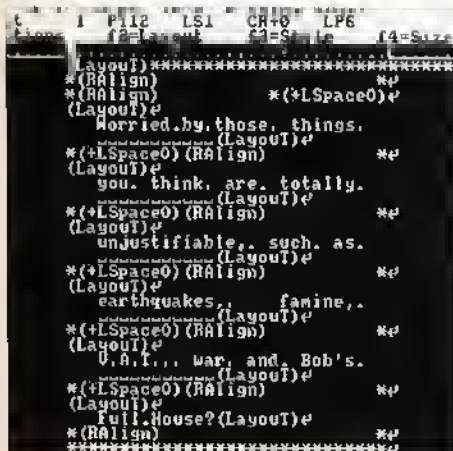
7. Copy the sequence above by putting the cursor just before the beginning, pressing **[COPY]**, positioning the cursor at the end, press **[COPY]** again and then 1.

8. At the end of each line except the last (using **[EOL]**) insert all the stuff in step 6 by entering **[PASTE]1**.

9. At the end of the last line press **[+] LT1 [ENTER]** and finish off by repeating the second and then first line of border characters.

Then print out for the magic to happen.

CA Child, Derby



```
*****
*
*   Worried by those things
*   you think are totally
*   unjustifiable, such as
*   earthquakes, famine,
*   V. A. T., war and Bob's
*   Full House?
*
*****
```

It looks a little like a real pig's breakfast, but the nice boxed results are justifiable – literally.

3 1/2" DISC DRIVE

only £79.95 + £3.00 p&p

3 1/2" DISCS - 10 for £7.50

2 in 1 allows you to read, write and format PC discs - 8256, 8512 only.

£49.95 or £39.95 when bought with a drive.

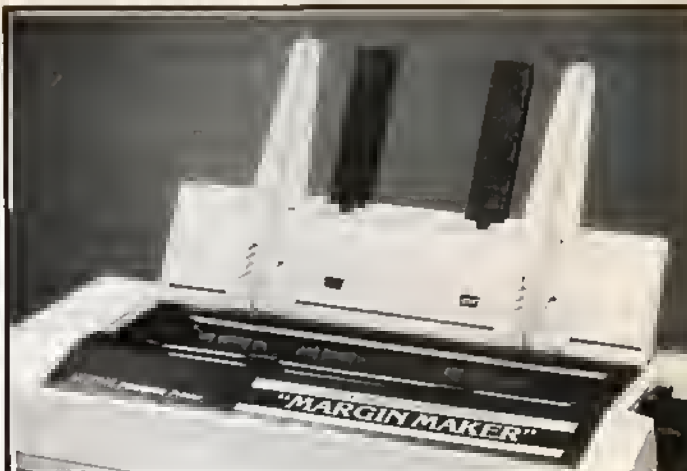
The normal internal 3" B drive does everything our external 3 1/2" B drive does **except** - it won't allow you to buy discs at 75p each to read/write to PC formatted discs. And you definitely can't buy it for less than £80. Our top brand TEAC drive needs no extra power supply and is very easy to connect to the 8256, 8512 and 9512 computers via a single ribbon cable. Housed in its sleek white metal case it measures just 17 x 11 x 3 cms and is supplied with full step by step fitting instructions.

256K MEMORY UPGRADE - £29.95

Turn your 8256 into an 8512 with our easy to fit upgrade kit. Full fitting instructions supplied.

**COMPACT
MICROS**

177 sunnyside Lane,
Orley Road, Bradford BD3 0JB
Tel: 0274 640589 (tech 636652)



'MM3' cut-sheet LOCATOR & ALIGNER for PCW 8000 Printers

Artificially designed. British made. Quality throughout!

Load cut-sheets spot-on, last! Save time, paper, money! No guesswork or skewing. Use letterheads, forms etc. < 100gms. Multi-pass print! Fix arms anywhere. Four pitch scales. Easy to fit, adjust, use.

"MM3 is so simple...an effective. Beautifully designed and well worth the money."

"Micronet" August 88

"MM3 revolutionised tracking word processing, improved GCSE results in keyboard applications."

Mrs. M.R. [Tewkesbury] September '88

"I would like to order MM3 as I'm sick of friends who've got one and float at my wasted paper!"

Mr. P.F. [Birmingham] August '88



£12.50

incl. VAT & p+p

SIMPLY - THE BEST!

"MARGIN MAKER"

Or send addressed sticky LABEL + REMITTANCE made out to:-

Dept. 8 Box 121 Gresham Rd., Staines, Mx. TW18 2AJ. UK. ☎ (0784) 452677
Reg. Design. No. 1043347

THURSTON TECHNIQUES

*NEW - **PageMate** - 706K disc. Includes the PageMate Luerfile for Personal and Business records to merge with many pre-designed LocoMail files that automatically produce label and list options for you. Luerfile of National telephone codes and exchanges with Merge List options. Diary, 5 year calendar, appointment diaries etc. For 8512/9512.

*NEW - **XWriter** - For compiling crosswords in LocoScript 1 or 2. All PCWs, 20 choices of crossword grids and accompanying clue numbering. Includes a £20 PRIZE Cryptic Crossword compiled by Brian Thurston.

★ ★ ★ LOCOSCRIPT USERS ★ ★ ★

A 706K disc of 133 files comprising over 700 Options for the PCW8512. Includes LocoMail and LocoChar features and all files described below.

"a showcase for the features of LocoScript" cWithAPCW Sept '87
"extremely professional, a worthwhile purchase" Your Amstrad PCW Dec '87
"excellent, instructions are precise and well presented" APCW Mag Aug '87
"no LocoScripter should be without one" 8000 Plus June '89.

TempDisc 8.2 £19.95

A Double Density disc with 133 files (706k) for LocoScript 2. It includes LocoMail and LocoChar features. All Discs ordered direct are personalised.

- ◆ **GENERAL:** Lifetime diary (to yr 2100!), 2 yr calendar, agenda, minutes, 5 label choices, envelopes (inc. 1st Class, AirMail, Private, Personal etc), disc labels, menu, order form, organiser/planner templates, compliments, choice of 13 instant letterheads.
- ◆ **FINANCE & FIGUREWORK:** Invoices, statements, calculator, spreadsheet layouts, metric converter file, payment advice, annual statement of account, sales and purchases books.
- ◆ **WRITERS:** Authors, script layouts for film, TV and stage. Crossword layout.
- ◆ **LISTS & FORMS:** School marking chart, weekly diary, inventory, appointment diary, shipping doc, production schedule, personal file, c.v., will, template with 9 choices of vertical lined layouts (simply add your own headings), Pedigree Chart.
- ◆ **SOCIAL & SPORTS:** Star signs, family tree, automatic fixture lists, KO draw and chart, first day cover, tickets, party invitations, league tables, apology for abysmal behaviour at a party, screen-art and d.i.y., New LocoChar Artists.
- ◆ **LOCOSCRIPT FILES:** Template, Sid with prepared Stack Layouts, Pitch guide, Settings. Sid with 10 pre-set choices, ingenious use of Phrases. Sid files.
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS:** Cards, New envelopes with Christmas designs, bordered greetings, Christmas header, and these Christmas LocoCharacters.

Locoscript
Correspondence
Courses. Please send
large S.A.E. for syllabus
and registration form.

Other versions (with file variations) of TempDisc:

for LocoScript 1	TempDisc 1 - dbl sided drive A	£17.95
for LocoScript 2	TempDisc 2 - dbl sided drive A	£17.95
PCW 9512 owners	TempDisc 9 - dbl density drive A	£19.95

TempDisc Upgrades £7.50. Updats £6. 5 1/4" drive B disc versions available



TempMate (Design Copyright Sept 1986) MARGINS, TABULATION AND LINE POSITIONING

Get them right first time!

Suitable for all word processing. Versions for all character pitch sizes, for 'Landscape' printing and mini-planner TempMates. PCW 8256/8512 users should ask for the Standard version. Place the grid over your form or letterhead and correct positions for Margins, Tabulation and Lines are clearly indicated. It's so simple it doesn't need further explanation!

"like many simple things extremely useful" BBC CEEFAX.

"excellent" Comp WAPCW Sept 1987. "wonderfully simple idea"

Your APCW Jan 1987. "excellent, there are a number of word processing aids of this kind on the market but this is the best I have seen" APCW Aug 1987

"right place first time think of all those trees you could save" 8000 Plus Dec 1986.

WORD PROCESSING RULER

The Page Boy word processing ruler is a clear PVC ruler which measures characters per inch at 17, 15, 12, 10, 5 (10d), 6 & 7 1/2 and, lines per inch at 5, 6, 7 1/2 and 8. It also includes a centimetre line and the '10' line doubles as an inch measure. In total it has 13 options

TT PATIENCE - Solo Card Games

Six games of playing card patience. YAPCW said "ingenious and highly addictive" Top marks from 8000 Plus for 'addictiveness'. Includes an emergency 'cover-up' in case the milkman interrupts you!

The Writer's Disc for LocoFile Users

WordDisc A 706K disc. Templates for authors and for stage, TV and film script writers with SYNONYMS file of over 39,000 words

TempMate	£4.95	TT Patience	£14.95
Page Boy	£2.45	WordDisc	£15.95
TempMate & Page Boy	£6.45	New XWORDER	£14.85
2 TempMates	£7.00	New FONEMATE	£15.95

Quantity and trade prices on request! Retail, schools and local authority enquiries welcome. All prices include VAT and UK Post and Packing. 48 hour despatch

Thurston Techniques

Thurston House
18 Danby Terrace
Exmouth, Devon EX8 1QS
Fax or Telephone 0395 277496



Strangways House
9 Strangways Terrace
Truro, Cornwall TR1 2NY
Telephone (0872) 223212

Have you considered writing as a hobby? Noms de Plume offers something different in the way of encouragement. We offer Information. We offer Communication. We offer Motivation.

We offer a Creative Writing course so different we are even tempted to call it revolutionary.

Unorthodox methods and lots of fun are guaranteed, and perhaps a new and lucrative interest will emerge as well.

If you would like details of this new concept, please contact:

Noms de Plume
9, Strangways Terrace,
Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2NY.

KEYSTROKES LTD

Phototypesetters

- Setting direct from your Amstrad disks, Loco 1 or 2 or ASCII
- Helpful service, reasonable pricing
- Page make-up, multi-column, Top quality keyline
- Over 120 faces, sizes 5 to 72 point
- Top quality setting at over 5 million dots per square inch

Expanding

Reversing

Condensing and
Italicising
available on
the majority
of faces

Tel: Reigate, Surrey 0737 243682 Fax: 0737 224157

Super-LINDEX £14.95 Inclusive

- ★ Makes a useful catalogue of your LocoScript discs
- ★ Extracts information from the LocoScript Identity Text
- ★ Catalogues PROTEXT files beginning with a comment
- ★ Output to printer, text file, or file which can be read into LocoFile or other database — catalogue several discs in one datafile!
- ★ CP/M mode extends use to all types of file
- ★ Designed by a user for user convenience!

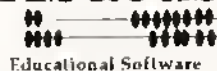
LINDEX £8.50 Inclusive

Popular version (scored 15/15 in December 1989 8000 PLUS)

Further details from:—

★ **Festival Software Services** ★
470 Leeds Road, Thackley, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD10 9AA
Tel. Bradford (0274) 613300

Abacus



Abacus Software,
11 Woodcote Drive,
Orpington, Kent BR6 8DB

Proprietor JD Charlton



Cheques accepted. Tel: 0689 36213

SuperMaths: For Amstrad PCWs, PCs and compatibles. User friendly, package: **multiplication (including tables), division, addition and subtraction - choice of difficulty - ages 5 upwards.** Scores shown, success rewarded. **PRACTICE and TEST (timed), WORKSHEET** produces worksheets on printer with choice of styles, separate answers. **Can provide hours of fun improving numeracy skills in home or classroom.** £16.95.

MarkSheet: Everything you need to enter, validate, edit and store MarkSheets by class, term, and year with ease. Can be tailored to your schools requirements. Prints neat summary with pupil and form averages on A4 paper. £45. Site licence available. **Send for free catalogue for further details of the above and other programs.**

PCW SUPPLIES

PRINTER RIBBONS

	MULTISTRIKE		NYLON	
	1-11	12+	1-11	12+
PCW8256/8512	£2.60	£2.35	£2.60	£2.35
PCW9512	£2.20	£1.99	£2.20	£1.99

PCW 9512 PRINT WHEELS £5.25 EACH

COURIER 10, PRESTIGE PICA 10, RECTOR 10, ORATOR 10
MINI GOTHIC 15, LETTER GOTHIC 10/12, PRESTIGE ELITE 12
SCRIPT 12, THESIS

3" MAXELL CF2 DISKS £1.79 EACH

CLEANING PRODUCTS

PCW 8256/8512	CLEANING RIBBON	£5.00
PCW9512	CLEANING RIBBON	£4.50
CLEANHEAD	3" CLEANING DISK	£5.00

PROFESSIONAL ACOUSTIC HOODS UP TO 95% NOISE REDUCTION

PCW9512	WITHOUT CUT SHEET FEED	£85
PCW9512	WITH CUT SHEET FEED	£109

FREE CARRIAGE - JUST ADD VAT @ 15%

NOVATECH

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE PO
ACCESS OR VISA

136 HIGHLAND ROAD
SOUTHSEA
HANTS PO4 9NH

(0705) 822911

PCW PUBLIC DOMAIN

FROM £1.65 PER VOLUME

The Best of the Public Domain

A huge range of excellent and tested P.D. software for every purpose. Languages, utilities, databases, games, text editors and much more. Fully documented.

Installing CP/M Software

The definitive guide to software installation on CP/M machines. Comes with all necessary software. £5.00 on your disc. Only £8.00 on ours.

Format Translation and Disc Salvage

We probably offer the cheapest and best service there is.

All prices include VAT and postage

For FREE catalogue, please send a S.A.E. to

PCW Software Library
11, Older Way, Angmering,
Sussex, BN16 4HQ.

PCW DRAW

A full function drafting program - produces clear drawings on your PCW printer. Menu-driven, pixel accuracy. Draws lines, rectangles, arcs, circles, ellipses. Also freehand sketches with zoom facility. Detail Editor. Four methods for saving all or parts of drawing for re-use. NOW SUPPORTS AMX MOUSE AND 24 PIN PRINTER Price £39.95.

PATTERN PUZZLES

A suite of five programs each of which provides tantalizing puzzles - the level can be set by the user from the trivial to the brain blasting.

INTRODUCTORY PRICE £13.80

Prices include VAT, P & P

Cash with order

HTB COMPUTERS LTD.

Broadwater House, Broadwater Road, Romsey,
Hants. SO51 8GT
Tel: 0794 - 516279

A good account of himself

T A couple of months ago someone requested a LocoMail routine that would work out monthly accounts – tot up incomings and outgoings. Here's a suggestion. Type the routine below and call it **ACCOUNTS.FIL**.

To run the program, place the cursor bar over **ACCOUNTS.FLL** in the disc management screen, and press **F** and **[ENTER]**, then wait a few seconds. Then just follow the prompts. LocoMail asks for a date, type of transaction and description (incoming or outgoing) and an amount. After entering the amount, you are asked for further items or not. If you answer y for yes to this last prompt, the date, item, etc., repeats itself.

When you answer n for no, having entered all the items you wanted to for this session, you will then be presented with a small menu. Entering the number of your selection activates the

next bit. The menu is hopefully clear, and you will mainly use option 3 after each session. This sets up the new file with a copy of the LOCOMAIL program, so that you can build up a complete month's entries over several sessions.

If you select option 2, the running totals for the month are displayed in reverse video. Option 1 should only be used after you have completed the whole month, so that the final totals can be automatically calculated and inserted into your final document.

After pressing option 3, LocoMail re-inserts the **ACCOUNTS** program below your last entry. This is to allow you to enter further items below those already put in at a later date. For the first session you could save to a filename of **JAN1990A.FLL** or something similar. Then when you want to enter further details in January 1990, you would select **JAN1990A.FLL** to fill and

not the **ACCOUNTS.FLL** file. However, you will have to save the resulting file as

JAN1990B.FLL to access it for the next additions in January 1990 and so on.

To finally finish, LocoMall displays another menu offering the chance to Fill again or Finish, you should select Finish.

After your first fill, you should still have the **ACCOUNTS.FLL** file and a new file **JAN1990A.FLL**.

Using the extension of **FLL** is a good reminder of the type of file it is, a **LOCOMAIL** Fill type.

When you have completed a whole month and chosen option 1 to calculate the totals this final file could be saved to **JAN1990.ACC** to show that it is a complete month.

To start a new month, start with **ACCOUNTS.FLL** again.
Andrew Grleve, Goole, Humberside

[illegible]

Part 1 of that accounts routine...

```

?>rep=1;
?>rep=
?>ans=:; Another item? yes or no, then press (Y/N) (Unit)
(Unit)
?>ans=:quit=0:again=0
?>ans=:yes:(quit=0:again=1
?>(quit=1)
?>quit
?>Mail}
?>run=(*Mail)
?>plot=(*Mail) error:th:tbl:tbl[1]/1:tbl[2]/2:tbl[3]/3:tbl[4]/4:tbl[5]/5:tbl[6]/6:tbl[7]/7:tbl[8]/8:tbl[9]/9:tbl[10]/10:tbl[11]/11:tbl[12]/12:tbl[13]/13:tbl[14]/14:tbl[15]/15:tbl[16]/16:tbl[17]/17:tbl[18]/18:tbl[19]/19:tbl[20]/20:tbl[21]/21:tbl[22]/22:tbl[23]/23:tbl[24]/24:tbl[25]/25:tbl[26]/26:tbl[27]/27:tbl[28]/28:tbl[29]/29:tbl[30]/30:tbl[31]/31:tbl[32]/32:tbl[33]/33:tbl[34]/34:tbl[35]/35:tbl[36]/36:tbl[37]/37:tbl[38]/38:tbl[39]/39:tbl[40]/40:tbl[41]/41:tbl[42]/42:tbl[43]/43:tbl[44]/44:tbl[45]/45:tbl[46]/46:tbl[47]/47:tbl[48]/48:tbl[49]/49:tbl[50]/50:tbl[51]/51:tbl[52]/52:tbl[53]/53:tbl[54]/54:tbl[55]/55:tbl[56]/56:tbl[57]/57:tbl[58]/58:tbl[59]/59:tbl[60]/60:tbl[61]/61:tbl[62]/62:tbl[63]/63:tbl[64]/64:tbl[65]/65:tbl[66]/66:tbl[67]/67:tbl[68]/68:tbl[69]/69:tbl[70]/70:tbl[71]/71:tbl[72]/72:tbl[73]/73:tbl[74]/74:tbl[75]/75:tbl[76]/76:tbl[77]/77:tbl[78]/78:tbl[79]/79:tbl[80]/80:tbl[81]/81:tbl[82]/82:tbl[83]/83:tbl[84]/84:tbl[85]/85:tbl[86]/86:tbl[87]/87:tbl[88]/88:tbl[89]/89:tbl[90]/90:tbl[91]/91:tbl[92]/92:tbl[93]/93:tbl[94]/94:tbl[95]/95:tbl[96]/96:tbl[97]/97:tbl[98]/98:tbl[99]/99:tbl[100]/100:tbl[101]/101:tbl[102]/102:tbl[103]/103:tbl[104]/104:tbl[105]/105:tbl[106]/106:tbl[107]/107:tbl[108]/108:tbl[109]/109:tbl[110]/110:tbl[111]/111:tbl[112]/112:tbl[113]/113:tbl[114]/114:tbl[115]/115:tbl[116]/116:tbl[117]/117:tbl[118]/118:tbl[119]/119:tbl[120]/120:tbl[121]/121:tbl[122]/122:tbl[123]/123:tbl[124]/124:tbl[125]/125:tbl[126]/126:tbl[127]/127:tbl[128]/128:tbl[129]/129:tbl[130]/130:tbl[131]/131:tbl[132]/132:tbl[133]/133:tbl[134]/134:tbl[135]/135:tbl[136]/136:tbl[137]/137:tbl[138]/138:tbl[139]/139:tbl[140]/140:tbl[141]/141:tbl[142]/142:tbl[143]/143:tbl[144]/144:tbl[145]/145:tbl[146]/146:tbl[147]/147:tbl[148]/148:tbl[149]/149:tbl[150]/150:tbl[151]/151:tbl[152]/152:tbl[153]/153:tbl[154]/154:tbl[155]/155:tbl[156]/156:tbl[157]/157:tbl[158]/158:tbl[159]/159:tbl[160]/160:tbl[161]/161:tbl[162]/162:tbl[163]/163:tbl[164]/164:tbl[165]/165:tbl[166]/166:tbl[167]/167:tbl[168]/168:tbl[169]/169:tbl[170]/170:tbl[171]/171:tbl[172]/172:tbl[173]/173:tbl[174]/174:tbl[175]/175:tbl[176]/176:tbl[177]/177:tbl[178]/178:tbl[179]/179:tbl[180]/180:tbl[181]/181:tbl[182]/182:tbl[183]/183:tbl[184]/184:tbl[185]/185:tbl[186]/186:tbl[187]/187:tbl[188]/188:tbl[189]/189:tbl[190]/190:tbl[191]/191:tbl[192]/192:tbl[193]/193:tbl[194]/194:tbl[195]/195:tbl[196]/196:tbl[197]/197:tbl[198]/198:tbl[199]/199:tbl[200]/200:tbl[201]/201:tbl[202]/202:tbl[203]/203:tbl[204]/204:tbl[205]/205:tbl[206]/206:tbl[207]/207:tbl[208]/208:tbl[209]/209:tbl[210]/210:tbl[211]/211:tbl[212]/212:tbl[213]/213:tbl[214]/214:tbl[215]/215:tbl[216]/216:tbl[217]/217:tbl[218]/218:tbl[219]/219:tbl[220]/220:tbl[221]/221:tbl[222]/222:tbl[223]/223:tbl[224]/224:tbl[225]/225:tbl[226]/226:tbl[227]/227:tbl[228]/228:tbl[229]/229:tbl[230]/230:tbl[231]/231:tbl[232]/232:tbl[233]/233:tbl[234]/234:tbl[235]/235:tbl[236]/236:tbl[237]/237:tbl[238]/238:tbl[239]/239:tbl[240]/240:tbl[241]/241:tbl[242]/242:tbl[243]/243:tbl[244]/244:tbl[245]/245:tbl[246]/246:tbl[247]/247:tbl[248]/248:tbl[249]/249:tbl[250]/250:tbl[251]/251:tbl[252]/252:tbl[253]/253:tbl[254]/254:tbl[255]/255:tbl[256]/256:tbl[257]/257:tbl[258]/258:tbl[259]/259:tbl[260]/260:tbl[261]/261:tbl[262]/262:tbl[263]/263:tbl[264]/264:tbl[265]/265:tbl[266]/266:tbl[267]/267:tbl[268]/268:tbl[269]/269:tbl[270]/270:tbl[271]/271:tbl[272]/272:tbl[273]/273:tbl[274]/274:tbl[275]/275:tbl[276]/276:tbl[277]/277:tbl[278]/278:tbl[279]/279:tbl[280]/280:tbl[281]/281:tbl[282]/282:tbl[283]/283:tbl[284]/284:tbl[285]/285:tbl[286]/286:tbl[287]/287:tbl[288]/288:tbl[289]/289:tbl[290]/290:tbl[291]/291:tbl[292]/292:tbl[293]/293:tbl[294]/294:tbl[295]/295:tbl[296]/296:tbl[297]/297:tbl[298]/298:tbl[299]/299:tbl[300]/300:tbl[301]/301:tbl[302]/302:tbl[303]/303:tbl[304]/304:tbl[305]/305:tbl[306]/306:tbl[307]/307:tbl[308]/308:tbl[309]/309:tbl[310]/310:tbl[311]/311:tbl[312]/312:tbl[313]/313:tbl[314]/314:tbl[315]/315:tbl[316]/316:tbl[317]/317:tbl[318]/318:tbl[319]/319:tbl[320]/320:tbl[321]/321:tbl[322]/322:tbl[323]/323:tbl[324]/324:tbl[325]/325:tbl[326]/326:tbl[327]/327:tbl[328]/328:tbl[329]/329:tbl[330]/330:tbl[331]/331:tbl[332]/332:tbl[333]/333:tbl[334]/334:tbl[335]/335:tbl[336]/336:tbl[337]/337:tbl[338]/338:tbl[339]/339:tbl[340]/340:tbl[341]/341:tbl[342]/342:tbl[343]/343:tbl[344]/344:tbl[345]/345:tbl[346]/346:tbl[347]/347:tbl[348]/348:tbl[349]/349:tbl[350]/350:tbl[351]/351:tbl[352]/352:tbl[353]/353:tbl[354]/354:tbl[355]/355:tbl[356]/356:tbl[357]/357:tbl[358]/358:tbl[359]/359:tbl[360]/360:tbl[361]/361:tbl[362]/362:tbl[363]/363:tbl[364]/364:tbl[365]/365:tbl[366]/366:tbl[367]/367:tbl[368]/368:tbl[369]/369:tbl[370]/370:tbl[371]/371:tbl[372]/372:tbl[373]/373:tbl[374]/374:tbl[375]/375:tbl[376]/376:tbl[377]/377:tbl[378]/378:tbl[379]/379:tbl[380]/380:tbl[381]/381:tbl[382]/382:tbl[383]/383:tbl[384]/384:tbl[385]/385:tbl[386]/386:tbl[387]/387:tbl[388]/388:tbl[389]/389:tbl[390]/390:tbl[391]/391:tbl[392]/392:tbl[393]/393:tbl[394]/394:tbl[395]/395:tbl[396]/396:tbl[397]/397:tbl[398]/398:tbl[399]/399:tbl[400]/400:tbl[401]/401:tbl[402]/402:tbl[403]/403:tbl[404]/404:tbl[405]/405:tbl[406]/406:tbl[407]/407:tbl[408]/408:tbl[409]/409:tbl[410]/410:tbl[411]/411:tbl[412]/412:tbl[413]/413:tbl[414]/414:tbl[415]/415:tbl[416]/416:tbl[417]/417:tbl[418]/418:tbl[419]/419
```

and part 3

Take your pixel

Q I know you can put characters at a specific position on the screen in BASIC, but is it possible to draw individual pixels, i.e. dots, on the screen as it is with many other computers?

I'm also confused by the references in the CP/M manual to the function that lets you control the printer and print out graphics. Can you help?

JD Gallon, St Andrews, Fife

8000 PLUS: Well, yes, but not easily. You have three options, which in descending order of easiness are:

1. Buy Lightning BASIC, £24.95 from CP

to BASIC such as pixel-drawing.

2. Get a back copy of 8000 Plus August 1988, issue 23, and turn to page 58.

There's a short BASIC listing on there by an old friend of 8000 Plus, Larry Simons, which gives you the pixel plotting function. In fact, it's probably time the editor reprinted this one!

3. Get familiar with GSX, the graphics extensions that you get free with your PCW. Unfortunately GSX is hardly mentioned in the manual and isn't particularly easy to use. There was a series on GSX in 8000 Plus from issues 25 to 28.

As for printing graphics on the printer,

I think the best thing to do is point you towards 8000 Plus issue 24, September 1988, page 36. It explained in admirably clear detail how to control the printer, and it's high time it was reprinted and I got a reprint too!

Sticky problem

TLocoScript has a special feature to make one-handed typing easier. With 'sticky shift keys' engaged, combinations using [SHIFT], [ALT] and [EXTRA] don't have to be simultaneous – e.g. to get a capital F, you can press [SHIFT] and then F; to go up a paragraph, you can press [ALT] and then [PAGE] with the same finger, and so on.

To select it, press [f8] in disc management and choose the bottom option, and the same to deselect it. If you press S, E or A by mistake, another press cancels it.

● 1997年12月1日

In the archives

T If you're short on disc space you can make files you only need for backup or archive purposes smaller. Select **[t1] [t7]** in Loco 2) in the disc manager and select **'Make ASCII file'**, selecting **'Simple text'**. Give the new name and when finished erase the old version. To view the archived version, you have to create a new file and insert the **ASCII** file while editing the new one (**[t1]** in Loco 2, **[7]** in Loco 1). You lose all the bold, italic and layout commands etc, and all the squiggly symbols, but save 25%-35% space on each one.

10-519-001-01

JOIN THE CLUB!

If you're looking for the best prices, best games, best offers and best service, then join **Special Reserve**. Or join **Official Secrets** if you're looking for more...

Special Reserve

£5.00

Club Privileges

- All club members benefit from:
- Special offers, at prices you might not believe!
 - Bi-monthly Buyer's Guide each with details of 40 games, building to a valued reference.
 - Membership card with privilege number, and folder for the Buyer's Guides.
 - FAST despatch, normally the day after receipt of order. Most lines in stock.
 - Each product sent individually by 1st class post. Many will fit through your letter-box.
 - 7-day sales hotline, open until 6pm weekdays, 10 to 5.30 Saturdays, 11 to 5 Sundays.
 - Written order confirmation and receipt. Order query line manned weekdays.
 - New titles may be ordered in advance and will be despatched upon publication.
 - Instant refunds available on request for delayed titles.
 - No commitment, no obligation to buy anything and no 'minimum purchase'.

Prices include VAT and carriage

All the best software, carefully selected and available to members only at truly extraordinary prices. You can buy at the same time as joining - or join now and select from our catalogue. There is no obligation to buy anything.

Games	RRP	SRP	Adventures	RRP	SRP
BOB WINNER (ACTION) ...	24.95	8.49	Level 9		
BRIAN CLOUGH'S FOOTBALL FORTUNES ...	14.99	8.99	GNOME RANGER	14.95	9.99
BRIDGE PLAYER 2000	19.95	14.99	INGRID'S BACK	19.95	9.99
BRIDGE PLAYER 2150	29.95	19.99	LANCELOT	19.95	12.49
CLASSIC GAMES 4 (BRIDGE 2000, CHESS 88, BACKGAMMON, DRAFTS) ...	19.95	13.99	SCAPEGHOT	19.95	12.49
CLOCK CHESS '89	19.95	13.99	TIME & MAGIK	14.95	10.49
COLOSSUS CHESS 4	17.99	10.49	Magnetic Scrolls		
CYRUS CHESS 2	24.95	6.49	CORRUPTION	24.95	15.49
DISTRACTIONS			FISH!	24.95	15.49
(4 GAMES FOR 8256) ...	19.95	11.47	JINXTER	24.95	15.49
GIANT KILLER (MATHS 9-14 YRS) ...	14.95	10.99	THE PAWN	24.95	15.49
HEAD COACH (US FOOTBALL) ...	19.99	13.49	Infocom		
HOME ENTERTAINMENT CTR ...	19.99	12.99	LEATHER GODDESSES (8000) ...	24.99	12.49
PCW CHALLENGE (ACE, SKYWAR, STRIP POKER, FORMULA 1)	19.99	13.49	STATIONFALL	24.99	12.49
PRO POOLS	44.99	24.49	Abstract Concepts		
PRO PUNTER	59.99	31.99	MINDFIGHTER	24.99	7.99
SCRABBLE	19.95	13.49	Artronic		
SPORTING TRIANGLES ...	19.99	12.99	PCW ADVENTURE (8000) ...	14.99	11.99
STARGLIDER (8000)	24.95	7.99	Topologika		
STEVE DAVIS SNOOKER ...	17.99	11.49	ACHETON	14.95	10.99
TETRIS (8000 SERIES) ...	19.99	6.99	AVON	14.95	10.99
TOMAHAWK	19.95	13.49	COUNTDOWN TO DOOM	14.95	10.99
TRIVIAL PURSUIT	19.95	8.49	KINGDOM OF HAMIL	14.95	10.99
WORLD OF SOCCER	19.99	13.49	LAST DAYS OF DOOM	19.99	13.99
YES CHANCELLOR! (ECON SIM) ...	14.95	10.99	PHILOSOPHER'S QUEST	14.95	10.99
			RETURN TO DOOM	14.95	10.99

MAXELL 1.89

CF2 3" DISK

Utilities	RRP	SRP
AMS COMPLETE DESK TOP PUBLISHER WITH MOUSE	69.95	48.99
AMS STOP PRESS DESK TOP PUBLISHER	44.95	28.49
AMS STOP PRESS DESK TOP PUBLISHER WITH MOUSE	79.95	54.99
DBASE II	69.95	51.99
DEVPAK 80	49.95	39.99
GRAPHICS PLUS (8000 SERIES)	24.99	16.99
LIGHTNING BASIC PLUS	24.95	16.99
LOCO SPELL	19.99	13.49
MASTERFILE 8000 DATABASE	49.95	32.99
MONEY MANAGER PLUS	39.95	26.99
PROFESSIONAL ADVENTURE WRITER	27.95	18.49
PROTEXT WORD PROCESSOR	59.95	37.99
SUPERCALC 2 SPREADSHEET	69.99	49.99

SALES LINES 0279 600204. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A SURCHARGE OF 50P PER GAME FOR ORDERS PLACED BY TELEPHONE.

Order Form

Non-members please add the membership fee

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Phone No. _____

Computer _____

*5.25"/"3.5"/"3.0"/"TAPE

Payable to: **Special Reserve or Official Secrets**
P.O. Box 847, Harlow, CM21 9PH

Special Reserve and Official Secrets are trading names of Inter-Medias Ltd
Reg. Office: 2 South Block, The Mallings, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9PG.

Existing members please enter your membership number.
Special Reserve membership £5 UK, £6 EEC, £7 World or
Official Secrets membership £22 UK, £25 EEC or £30 World
with Gnome Ranger and Myth ☐ or with Surprise Alternative and Myth ☐

Item _____

8000+

Item _____

TOTAL

Credit card expiry date _____

*CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER/ACCESS/VISA
(Including Connect, Mastercard, Eurocard, Switch etc)
Delete where applicable

Overseas orders must be paid by credit card
Prices include UK Postage and Packing
EEC orders please add 70p per item
World orders please add £1.50 per item

Official Secrets

£22.00

Confidential

32-page A4 bi-monthly glossy magazine
Confidential is written for people who take their fun seriously. If you're into Adventure, Strategy, FRPs, MUGs, PBMs, D&Ds, or if you would simply like to see more from behind the scenes then Confidential is essential reading. Regular features include Personnel File, Dead Letters, The Man in Black, Feature Articles, Brain Teasers, Diary, News, Competitions, and The Boss upstairs. Club participation is welcomed.

Gnome Ranger

Level 9's award-winning 3-part adventure
Starring Ingrid Bottomlow. "Go out and buy Gnome Ranger pronto!" said Atari ST User. If you already did please tick the box for a Surprise Alternative.

Help-Line

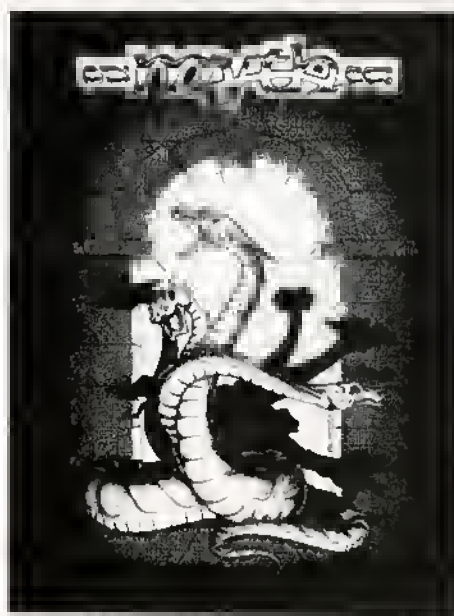
Manned weekdays and Sundays
Advice and hints to help you solve most games.

Special Reserve

Included in the membership fee
All the features and benefits of Special Reserve membership

Myth

A mini-adventure by Magnetic Scrolls
Magnetic Scrolls, authors of *The Pawn*, *The Guild of Thieves*, *Jinxter*, *Corruption* and *Fish!* have now written *Myth* exclusively for members of Official Secrets. Amazingly enough, it is included in the price of membership. Set in Ancient Greece, you play the part of a young god striving to prove himself worthy of immortality. You'll meet the Felyman, have a chance to cheat Death, and do battle against the nine-headed Hydra guarding the gates to the Underworld. *Myth* includes the state-of-the-art Magnetic Scrolls parser and those incredible graphics. For most computers - disk only. Only to members of Official Secrets - Free - Out Now.



Myth Reviews

Crash Smash 91%, Commodore User 90%, Amiga Format 87%, TGM 85%

The Good Software File

These pages provide a guide to the best software around for the Amstrad PCW. Published in three monthly parts, this time it's the turn of Spreadsheets, Games and Graphics to face the ultimate test. We've set out to test every piece of software we could lay our hands on, and to give you enough information to decide which program is the one you might be looking for.

The selection isn't comprehensive, but the software listed here represents what we think is the best of that currently available. As well as a brief summary of what they do, there are the main Plus and Minus points for each program - Pluses have a ▲ by them, Minuses a ▼.

Most of the packages mentioned throughout this guide should run on all three models of the PCW - unless, of course, we have stated otherwise.

Spreadsheets

If a database replaces an address book, then a spreadsheet replaces the back of an old envelope. It is really an electronic piece of paper which allows you to jot down numbers, juggle them around and analyse the cost benefits of a situation. Vital for businesses, spreadsheets can be useful to home users too: if you want a bank loan you will find that showing your bank manager a spreadsheet printout of your living expenses answers a lot of questions!

A typical spreadsheet has a grid of rows and columns. This grid forms a screenful of cells identified by their column and row numbers, e.g. A3, K36 etc. Each cell can contain a simple number, some text to make the page easier to read, or a formula telling the spreadsheet to work out a number using values from elsewhere. The power of spreadsheets is in this last category, formulae. You can make a cell's value depend on the value of cells above it, or to the left of it, and this value is then automatically updated if changes are made to the other cells.

So how do you choose between the various spreadsheets? One difference is sheet size, i.e. the number of cells you are allowed to work with. You'll need a few hundred for home use, and 1000 or more for business use. Another area is the range of formulae that you can use - all spreadsheets allow simple column and row totalling, but with some you can get complex statistical analyses too. As with all software, think very carefully what you will need before choosing.

Mini Office Professional Plus

£49.95 • Database Software • 0625 878888

Mini Office is a suite of five integrated programs - database, word processor, graphics module, comms package, and a very good spreadsheet. Broadly similar to SuperCalc in operation with usual features of auto or manual recalculation, replicating of rows/columns, powerful range of arithmetic functions etc. Printout is a strong point - rows/columns can be put into italic/bold etc, and prints draft, NLD or even sideways! Can't sort and can't just save data or structure of a spreadsheet, but maximum size of spreadsheet is claimed to be 320k. You can use the data from a spreadsheet in the graphics module directly. The manual is, however, pretty useless.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Good, full-featured easy to use spreadsheet
- ▲ Prints in draft, NLD or even sideways
- ▲ Maximum size of spreadsheet 320k
- ▲ Can transfer data directly to graphics module
- ▲ Can drive 24-pin printouts
- ▼ 'Save' options not as versatile as SuperCalc

Cracker turbo

£49.00 • Paperback Software • 0245 265017

A spreadsheet designed with advanced calculating power firmly in mind, including statistical functions. The screen layout is totally defined by the user, and cell value calculations can almost be full programs, e.g. DO... WHILE. It might prove too complex if all you want is simple spreadsheet operations. The screen messages are very helpful though. Turbo is claimed to be faster than Cracker 2 though sometimes isn't noticeably so.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Can cope with very complex formulae
- ▲ Flexible screen format defined by the user
- ▲ On-screen prompts are very clear
- ▲ Graphs/charts can be automatically produced
- ▼ Documentation is large, but obscure and confusing
- ▼ You've got to do a lot of work just to get started
- ▼ Very complex for quick, simple applications
- ▼ Needs some programming skills to get the most out of it
- ▼ Free workspace is on the small side (17k) although memory is used efficiently

SuperCalc 2

£69.95 • Amsoft Software • 0925 510 8787

The best selling spreadsheet, officially endorsed by Amstrad. SuperCalc 2 is broadly similar to ScratchPad Plus, but it has a smaller workspace and is less flexible about the allowed spreadsheet dimensions. You can store sequences of commands for repetitive

calculations. Price includes VAT and p&p.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Excellent manual - sections for beginners and experts
- ▲ Stores commands to run from files
- ▲ 'Data Interchanger' allows you to transfer spreadsheet data to other applications
- ▲ Comprehensive range of calculation functions available
- ▲ Screen can be split into 2 windows
- ▼ Spreadsheet is limited by memory size
- ▼ No graphical output facilities

First Calc

£29.95 • Minerva Systems • 0392 437756

Touted as a quick and simple to use program for the beginner, this is nevertheless quite a powerful spreadsheet, with a large capacity, ability to replicate formulae, export etc. Really it's not vastly more user-friendly than the rest but a good value package all the same.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ A lot of program for the money
- ▲ Good tutorials with demo files
- ▲ Simple to use but reasonably sophisticated
- ▼ Not much easier to use than more powerful packages
- ▼ Program is limited by the memory capacity of the PCW (300 - 400 filled cells)

Easy to use

Graphics

You can use a graphics package to create and store diagrams and drawings on disc, to be amended, adjusted or printed out at will.

There are three main types of graphics package: art, technical drawing and graph plotting programs. In art packages the emphasis is on designs and pictures, with freehand drawing facilities, a selection of pretty text fonts and a variety of patterns to fill areas with. These are made much more effective and easier to use if you have a mouse.

Technical drawing packages concentrate on shapes, such as squares and polygons, lines and labels. Finally graph

Powerful

Best general buy

SOFTWARE GUIDE

plotters will take your data and turn them into bar charts, pie charts and so on. 9512 owners will have to buy a dot matrix printer to do all this, of course.

Master Paint

£19.95 • Database Software • 0625 878888

A WIMP environment graphics package (windows, icons, menus, and pointer) which will run with Kempston, AMX or Electric Studio mice. Usual facilities for drawing curved or straight lines, polygons, boxes, circles and ellipses, and a host of 'fill' patterns. 'Undo' function and eraser facility, plus the ability to zoom in on a part of the picture.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ WIMP environment makes it easy to use
- ▲ Zoom function lets you line-tune your pictures
- ▲ Good range of effects
- ▲ Undo and erase facilities
- ▼ Text fonts are boring
- ▼ Can't move large blocks with the copy function

MasterScan

£69.95 • Database Software • 0625 878888

A device which clips on to your printer head and scans pictures, sending the digitised result to disc. You can then use the pictures in desktop publications or in other graphics packages, such as Master Paint. Very useful for newsletter production but the claims for MasterScan as a low-cost fax machine are grandiose - the quality of scanned text is poor if the text is anything less than headline size.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Simple method of getting good digitised graphics
- ▲ Suitable for all desktop publishing programs
- ▲ Centras! central useful
- ▼ Quality of scanned text is bad - no good for faxes
- ▼ Problems with illustrations containing lots of grey

Powerful

Lightning BASIC

£24.95 • CP Software • 0993 823463

A very clever add-on to normal Basic which works on three levels. The first contains all the everyday commands, whilst the second and third levels are used for designing icons, characters and sprites. There is something in it for everyone, whether an experienced Basic programmer or a beginner.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Simple and easy to use
- ▲ Makes simple Basic programs look really professional
- ▲ Good fun to use
- ▼ Documentation can be unclear
- ▼ Printed output is coarse draft quality
- ▼ Can only cope with simple graphics

Powerful

Complement Fonts & Borders

£12.50 • Dragonfly Designs • N/A

Although it can be used with all the main DTP packages, this latest complement disc was designed to work alongside Stop Press. The 11 fonts supplied on the disc show consistent good design and artistic flair and are easily loaded.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ The fonts provide a very professional finish.
- ▲ It is possible to rotate and reverse elements.
- ▲ Very user-friendly.
- ▼ Setting up borders tends to be difficult and time-consuming.
- ▼ Printed output could be better (but it is still above average).

Signwriter

£29.95 • Wight Scientific • 01 858 2699

Offers the widest range of features of any of the poster printing programs. Signwriter provides a range of 20 fonts, some of them very imaginative. Ideal for posters.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ You can redesign fonts and design your own symbols.
- ▲ A wide range of interesting fonts is available
- ▼ Not very user-friendly.
- ▼ Font design is slow.

Stop Press

£49.95 • AMS • 0625 878888

Though touted as a DTP program, Stop Press is an excellent graphics package. Can present data in the form of graphs, pie charts etc., and has the usual range of facilities to draw and fill triangles, boxes and so on plus a very good 'zoom' option which lets you examine the effect of changes in great detail.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Good graph drawing facilities
- ▲ Can design your own area fill patterns
- ▲ Good range of clip art, which you can modify if you wish
- ▲ Can superimpose one image on another
- ▲ Works with AMX and Kempston mice
- ▲ Is also a good DTP package
- ▼ Undeling wrongly placed text is difficult

AYE PLUS

£24.95 • CP Software • 0993 823463

The lull title is 'All you ever wanted to know about graphics, the universe and everything on PCW 8256/8512 ... but were afraid to ask PLUS'. Phew. A wide range of little programs to do graphic things on the PCW like smooth scrolling, defining windows, moving sprites around. The programs are written in assembler, with the source code provided if you want to see how to program them for yourself and adept the routines.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Wide range of useful functions
- ▲ Can be used from BASIC, machine code, or other language
- ▲ The assembler source code is supplied
- ▲ Inexpensive
- ▲ Good manual
- ▲ CP don't mind you using their routines in programs you sell
- ▼ A bit long-winded to use from BASIC
- ▼ No easy way of loading just the routines you want

VIDI PCW

£79.99 • Rombo Productions • 0506 414631

A very similar package to the Electric Studio digitiser, not much to choose between the two. Rombo's works with the Fleet Street Editor, Electric Studio's with Newsdesk International.

PLUSES • MINUSES

- ▲ Text can be inserted from within the program
- ▲ 16 levels of shading
- ▲ Can print images to screen in defined order and time apart.
- ▼ Unhelpful manual

Best general buy



Academy (Tau Ceti II)

£14.95 • CRL • 01 533 2918 • 8000s only

The sequel to Tau Ceti. To qualify as an advanced skimmer pilot, you must complete successfully 20 missions. Blast enemy craft with your personally designed skimmer.

GRAPHICS	4/5	ADDICTIVENESS	5/5
LASTING APPEAL	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Avon

£14.95 • Topologika • 0733 244682 • All PCWs

Based on the world and work of Shakespeare, this text-only adventure puts many a puzzler to even the most well-versed student of the bard. A handy help mode will get you out of the tighter corners. Compulsive gameplay!

ADDICTIVENESS	4/5	ATMOSPHERE	4/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Backgammon

£12.95 • CP Software • 0993 823463 • All PCWs

A fairly good implementation of the gambling board game. Playing speed is easily alterable and is totally unrelated to the games level of skill control.

RANGE OF FEATURES	4/5	STRENGTH OF PLAY	3/5
GRAPHICS	4/5	DOCUMENTATION	3/5

Blackstar

£14.95 • CRL • 01 533 2918 • 8000s only

A traditional text adventure with large playing area. You explore Castle Blackstar in search of a power orb.

ATMOSPHERE	4/5	INTERACTION	2/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Bouncer

£13.95 • Gremlin • 0742 753423 • 8000s only

A graphics bouncing-ball game. You have to direct the ball even a treacherous network of squares & hexagons. Persevere - or use the cheat mode!

GRAPHICS	4/5	ADDICTIVENESS	3/5
LASTING APPEAL	3/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Brian Clough's Fortunes

£19.99 • CDS • 0302 321134 • All PCWs

A cross between Monopoly and Football Manager, combining board and PCW. Go for league and cup success - but keep the bank manager happy too!

GRAPHICS	2/5	ADDICTIVENESS	4/5
LASTING APPEAL	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Bridge Player Galactica 2150

£19.95 • CP Software • 0993 823463 • All PCWs

The upgraded Bridge Player 2000. Excellent Tutor mode with hints written by Nicholas Gardener of the London Bridge School. Retains strong play.

GRAPHICS	3/5	STRENGTH OF PLAY	4/5
LASTING APPEAL	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	3/5

Classic Games

£19.95 • CP Software • 0993 823463 • All PCWs

A compilation of classic 'thinking' games on one disc: Clock Chess, Bridge Player, Backgammon and Draughts. Excellent value for money.

Clock Chess 89

£19.95 • CP Software • 0993 823463 • All PCWs

It's easy to make money when you know how

Put your PCW to profitable use and have fun at the same time. Our HORSE RACING PROGRAMS are easy to use and need no racing knowledge. FIVE YEARS OF PROVEN SUCCESS make our racing software



SIMPLY THE BEST - BETTER THAN ALL THE REST

Brimardon FORMULA - uses any daily paper - £25

Brimardon FORMULA PLUS - needs a racing paper - £35

Send a cheque or postal order or write or phone for full details.

Brimardon Computer Racing Service
75 Cockerton Green, Darlington, DL3 9EG
0325 288483

£5 reduction in price if you return this advert with your order

BOURNEMOUTH WEEKEND SPECIAL

Training on either
SuperCalc 2: Microdesign 2: or advanced Loco2
plus
3-star Hotel for 2 nights

Computer Training Centres (UK) Ltd
0202 299676

J & H Training

Interested in Computer Training?

1 Day Courses available on
Word Processing, Database,
Spreadsheet, plus more
Training on Amstrad computers

For details contact Julie or Helen

Tel 0709 673333 Fax 0709 700088

11 Fitzwilliam Avenue, Wath-on-Deane,
Rotherham S.Yorks S63 7HN

HD DESIGN CLIP ART FOR DTP

HD CLIPS & FONTS: 12 variable fonts for clip art, HD1 and HD2
HD2 DESKTOP MAGIC: Packed full of graphics including dogs, cats, birds, cars, advertising aids, electronic components, portraits, plus a special border making font 90 designs for firms and borders.
NB HD1 & HD2 ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE DESKTOP PUBLISHER FORMAT SEE CLIP PACK

HD3 IMAGE KIT: 44 larger graphics including steam trains, butterflies, cannons, spiffies, crani, plaques, samurai and many more

HD4 POSTER KIT: Comprises of four sets of cut and paste letters, enabling you to produce posters with reduced sleeping. Includes a set of outline style english letters, ideal for designing your own illuminated characters. Plus ready made signs for Fairs, Fetes and Sales

HD5 PAGE MAGIC: Outline figures including office workers, soccer players, cricketers, tennis players, children and portraits. Plus a selection of video digitized images (some of London) and 14 ready made decorative frames. Over 10 graphics on one disc

HD6 CARTOON FUN: 85 Cartoons including chief, vicars, dogs, cats, scout, guide, city, gery, a selection of facial expressions, newspaper, beater, heros and many more. Out most popular disc to date

CLIP PACK: A selection of 260 graphics from HD1 & HD2 formatted in GRF for the Desktop Publisher

DISCS £13.50 EACH INCLUDING P&P

WE STOCK DISCS FORMATTED FOR MICRODESIGN II, STOP PRESS, NEWSDESK INTERNATIONAL AND THE DESKTOP PUBLISHER. PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH DTP SOFTWARE YOU ARE USING WHEN PLACING AN ORDER. WRITE OR PHONE FOR OUR FREE INFORMATION SHEET



HD DESIGN, 3 RIDGEMOUNT WAY, WIDKING, SURREY GU21 3QN.

TELEPHONE (04467) 81394



HD6 CARTOON FUN AVAILABLE NOW!!

ARE 3" DISCS COSTING YOU A FORTUNE? ADD A 3.5" HIGH CAPACITY B DRIVE TO YOUR PCW ONLY £89

AMSOFT 3" DISCS	£2.50
SONY 3.5" DISCS	£0.95
8256/8512 RIBBONS	£2.99
PCW9512 RIBBONS	£2.75
AMS30L DISC BOX	£12.50
3"/3.5" DISC BOX	£9.99
60g PAPER 2000 SHEETS	£16.50
80g PAPER 2000 SHEETS	£24.50
LOCOSCRIPT 2/SPELL	£29.99
MICRO DESIGN 2	£49.99
TYPING TUTOR	£19.99
SEAL & TYPE (STATE MODEL)	£12.50
RIBBON RE-FRESH	£7.99
8256/8512 DUST COVER SET	£11.50
PCW 9512 DUST COVER SET	£13.50

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT & P & P
SHOP OPEN 9-6 MON-SAT
PHONE 0695 29046
FAX 0695 50673

VISA

K & M COMPUTERS
140 SANDY LANE CENTRE
SKELMERSDALE
LANCS. WN8 8LH



**A Complete
Service in
Computers &
Software.**

Miles Better Software
219/221 Cannock Road,
Chadmoor, Cannock
Staffordshire, WS11 2DD
Telephone:
(0543) 466577/8/9

Word Processing

Locoscript 2	£24.00
Locoscript 2 + Locospell 2	£23.00
Locospell 2	£18.70
Locomail 2	£27.00
Locofont 2	£17.50
Locofont 2	£13.00
24 Pin Drivers 8256/8512	£21.00
24 Pin Drivers 9512	£21.00
Tasword 8000	£17.95
Tasspell 8000	£11.95
New Word II	£74.95

Desktop Publishing / Graphics

AMN Mohr	£54.00
AMN Stop Press	£36.40
AMN Stop Press + Mouse	£70.00
AMN Desktop + Mouse	£62.00
Desktop Publisher + Mouse	£82.00
Master Scan	£63.00
Master Scan + Paint	£67.00
Master Paint	£15.00
Micro Design II	£49.95

Integrated Packages

Mind Office Professional	£26.00
Mind Office Professional +	£34.95
Plan II	£15.00

Databases

Masterfile 8000	£101.00
Datasort II	£27.00
Lorolite 8256/8512	£27.00
Lorolite 9512	£27.00
Lorolite + Locomail	£46.00
At Last Plus	£24.95
D-BASE II	£49.95

Utilities & Program Development

Datalax	£32.95
Easy Labeller 8256/8512	£20.00
Easy Labeller 9512	£29.00
Hilsoft Pascal 80	£72.95
Hilsoft Pascal 80	£72.95
Hilsoft Pascal Plus	£10.95
Super Type	£19.95

Spreadsheets

Supercalc 2	£52.00
Cracker II	£39.00

Accounting

Accounts Plus	£102.00
Popular Accounts	£69.00
Invoicing	£48.00
Payroll	£34.95
Money Manager PCW	£18.05
Personal Tax Planner	£29.95
Stockmark	£15.00
SHA Cash	£15.00

Just a selection from our vast range of computer software.
All goods sent within 24 hours.
All Prices include VAT and Delivery
Please make cheques, postal orders payable to:
"Miles Better Software"
Access/Visa orders please phone
for immediate dispatch.
Visitors Welcome.



VISA

SOFTWARE GUIDE

One of the better PCW chess programs. You can alter the level of play by specifying a time limit. Capable of very strong play and the 3D graphics are excellent.

GRAPHICS	4/5	STRENGTH OF PLAY	5/5
RANGE OF FEATURES	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Colossus Chess 4.0

£19.99 • CDS Software • 0302 321134 • All PCWs

A very strong chess game which manages to use time which you spend thinking to plan its strategy. Bags of features, including blindfold games.

GRAPHICS	3/5	STRENGTH OF PLAY	3/5
LASTING APPEAL	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	3/5

Corruption

£24.95 • Rainbird • 0666 504 326 • All PCWs

Takes you into the heady world of stocks and shares where making money is what it's all about. There's something rotten in the state of Scoll Electronics and it's up to you to find out what.

ATMOSPHERE	4/5	INTERACTION	5/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Cyrus II Chess

£15.95 • Amsoft • 0279 454555 • All PCWs

Chess game with a stunningly detailed 3-D display. The play is quite strong, with several handy features like allowing you to take back a move.

GRAPHICS	5/5	STRENGTH OF PLAY	3/5
LASTING APPEAL	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Double t Patience

£14.95 • Thurston Techniques • 0395 277496 • All PCWs

Six well-known card games (from Poker Patience to Pairs) to be played either alone or against the computer.

GRAPHICS	2/5	ADDICTIVENESS	5/5
LASTING APPEAL	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	3/5

Fish

£24.99 • Rainbird • 0666 504 326 • All PCWs

The underwater world of Hydropolis is under threat from a gang of interdimensional anarchists. They've stolen a locus wheel and dismantled it: your job is to get it back. Excellent graphics.

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	4/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Gnome Ranger

£14.95 • Level 9 • 0344 487597 • All PCWs

You follow the adventures of Ingrid Bottomlow, the intrepid gnome, through a fairy tale landscape full of compelling puzzles. Humorous and rather quaint.

ATMOSPHERE	3/5	INTERACTION	3/5
CHALLENGE	3/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Green

£12.00 • Classic Software • All PCWs

Race against the Global Warming in this new eco-drama game set in forestland threatened by over zealous lumberjacks. Preserve your morality points, perfect your strategy, and you might save the trees from destruction.

ATMOSPHERE 4/5 CHALLENGE 3/5

GAMEPLAY 4/5 VALUE VERDICT 4/5

Guild of Thieves

£24.95 • Rainbird • 0666 504 326 • 8000s only

To join the select Guild of Thieves in Kerovnia, you first have to show your worth by fleecing an island of all its treasures. An excellent adventure!

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	4/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Head Coach

£15.95 • DGA/Coda • 061 330 0184 • All PCWs

You coach an American Football team, picking players and deciding tactics against real NFL teams and players. Incredibly detailed simulation - a must for NFL fans!

ATMOSPHERE	4/5	INTERACTION	5/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Head Over Heels

£14.95 • Ocean • 061 832 6633 • 8000s only

A superlative, compulsive 3D arcade adventure where you control either Head or Heels. Escape from Castle Blacktooth and free the Empire's enslaved planets.

GRAPHICS	5/5	ADDICTIVENESS	5/5
LASTING APPEAL	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Ingrid's Back

£19.95 • Level 9 • 0344 487597 • All PCWs

Sequel to Gnome Ranger in which Ingrid returns to LI the Moaning to find it under threat from Jasper Quickbuck who wants to replace it with a yuppie estate. Adventure in 3 parts.

ATMOSPHERE	4/5	INTERACTION	4/5
CHALLENGE	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Jinxster

£24.95 • Rainbird • 0666 504326 • All PCWs

This one's all about saving the civilisation of a place call Aquilaria from the wicked Green Witches. All you have to do is find and reassemble a magic bracelet and redirect its arant powers. A very atmospheric game.

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	4/5
CHALLENGE	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Knightorc

£19.95 • Level 9 • 0934 814450 • All PCWs

You are an orc in this typical Level 9 adventure by the name of Gridleguts. An addictive game with lots of action, plenty to explore and mind-bending puzzles.

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	5/5
CHALLENGE	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Lancelot

£14.95 • Mandarin/Level 9 • 0625 878888 • All PCWs

A game in three parts which recounts the adventures of Lancelot. Manufacturers have vividly created an Arthunan world in which points are awarded for displays of chivalry, valour or benevolence. The game permits a full range of powerful commands.

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	5/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Mindfighter

£24.99 • Abstract Concepts/Activision • 01 431 1101 • 8000s only

An adventure game set in post-holocaust Southampton. Hero is a psychic 11 year old boy who can change himself into all different kinds of animals, and who has accidentally projected himself into the future. It's up to him to change the course of events and prevent nuclear war.

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	3/5
CHALLENGE	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Myth

£22 (membership) • Magnetic Scrolls • 0279 726585 • All PCWs

Join Official Secrets and you can have access to this excellent adventure game, where you find yourself cast as Poseidon - minus his godly powers! Rescue your late from the lap of the gods.

ADDICTIVENESS	4/5	ATMOSPHERE	4/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

The Pawn

£24.95 • Rainbird • 0666 504 326 • All PCWs

An excellent adventure with dozens of superb screen illustrations, zany characters and a host of baffling puzzles. Will keep you entertained for hours.

ATMOSPHERE	5/5	INTERACTION	5/5
CHALLENGE	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	5/5

Return to Doom

£12.95 • Topologika • 0733 244682 • All PCWs

Sequel to Countdown to Doom; you're back on the planet Doomewangera again to track down the ambassador Regina who has been kidnapped by some very unpleasant robots. Another text-only adventure game.

ATMOSPHERE	3/5	INTERACTION	2/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Scapeghost

£19.95 • Level 9 • 0934 814450 • All PCWs

You're a ghost with a mission - to catch the crooks who blamed you on earth. You tramp your way through spooky cemeteries - solve the puzzles and brave the vivid graphics, and justice will be done.

ATMOSPHERE	4/5	CHALLENGE	4/5
GRAPHICS	5/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Silicon Dreams

£19.95 • Rainbird • 0666 504 326 • All PCWs

A trilogy of intriguing adventure games. You are secret agent Kim Kimberley saving Snowball 9 from almost certain doom! With a humorous novella.

ATMOSPHERE	4/5	INTERACTION	4/5
CHALLENGE	4/5	VALUE VERDICT	4/5

Starglider

£24.95 • Rainbird • 0666 504 326 • 8000s only

A sophisticated shoot-'em-up with 3D vector graphics and a dose of strategy too. Your task is to save Navenia, helped by a complex playing guide.

GRAPHICS	5/5	ADDICTIVENESS	4/5
----------	-----	---------------	-----

LASTING APPEAL 4/5 VALUE VERDICT 5/5

Steve Davis Snooker

£19.99 • CDS • 0302 321134 • All PCWs

Surprisingly realistic simulation of both pool and snooker games – not as easy as it looks either! Foul shots, breaks and allows for spin, side, strength of shot. Good value, despite all the balls being greens!

GRAPHICS 2/5 ADDICTIVENESS 3/5

LASTING APPEAL 3/5 VALUE VERDICT 3/5

Strike Force Harrier

£19.95 • Mirrorsoft • 01-377 4645 • 8000s only

A combat simulation of a Hawker Harrier, designed in conjunction with British Aerospace. Very detailed and realistic but you'll need to put in a few hours with the manual to get all the bugs.

GRAPHICS 4/5 ADDICTIVENESS 3/5

LASTING APPEAL 3/5 VALUE VERDICT 3/5

Time and Magic

£14.95 • Mandarin Software • 0625 879920 • All PCWs

An excellent trilogy of time travel adventure which can be played in any order. Your task is to protect the history of the world from the destructive time Lords – another very atmospheric game.

ATMOSPHERE 5/5 INTERACTION 4/5

CHALLENGE 5/5 VALUE VERDICT 5/5

Tetris

£19.99 • Mirrorsoft • 01-377 4837 • 8000s only

You'll love the bricks of various shapes that drop out of the sky at the bottom of the screen. The better the fit, the higher your score. One of those ridiculously simple ideas which is very addictive!

GRAPHICS 3/5 ADDICTIVENESS 5/5

LASTING APPEAL 4/5 VALUE VERDICT 5/5

Tomahawk

£19.95 • Digital Int. • 0276 684959 • All PCWs

A sophisticated Apache helicopter flight simulator. Impressive cockpit view graphics as you engage in combat missions – can be used with a joystick too.

GRAPHICS 4/5 ADDICTIVENESS 3/5

LASTING APPEAL 4/5 VALUE VERDICT 4/5

UK Trivia Treasure Hunt

£24.95 • IMC Software • 0604 54814 • All PCWs

Put your wits against the program in this carefully planned game which would have Anneka working overtime. The quest for success is tricky; correct answers take you to various locations nationwide – but watch your fuel gauge or you'll be back to square one.

ATMOSPHERE 3/5 GRAPHICS 4/5

CHALLENGE 3/5 INTERACTION 2/5

Ultimate Quiz

£14.95 • DGC Software • 0337 7444 • All PCWs

Ten quizzes on topics as diverse as the Highway Code and the Italian language. Clean screens and an easy to use program make Ultimate Quiz excellent entertainment and good value for money too.

GRAPHICS 5/5 CHALLENGE 4/5

LASTING APPEAL 3/5 VALUE VERDICT 5/5

World of soccer

£15.95 • DGA/Coda • 061 330 0184 • All PCWs

A soccer management simulation game; you select squads of players for your international team and guide them through the European and World Cups. Gives a good insight into the kind of strategic thinking required.

ATMOSPHERE 4/5 INTERACTION 3/5

CHALLENGE 4/5 VALUE VERDICT 4/5

Yes Chancellor

£14.95 • Topologika • 0733 244682 • All PCWs

Become John Major for a day with this intense game written in BASIC. Whether it's budget balance or inflation control at stake, the Unions and the voters still have to be kept happy. Now is your chance to see if you can do it better than the professionals at Westminster!

ATMOSPHERE 3/5 INTERACTION 3/5

CHALLENGE 4/5 VALUE VERDICT 4/5

RDI

Now into our third year and still not one single complaint from any of our customers from our 2 years!

QUMA: Enthralling multiple-choice-of-answers game for either one or two players. Supplied categories are history, general knowledge, languages, geography, etc. or YOU can set up your own categories – define your own questions and from two to four answers to each question. Great family fun, or use it as a learning aid for GCSE, music lessons, fund-raising via quiz evenings, etc. etc. Ideal for teachers – print multiple choice question papers. Ideal for children – learn keyboard skills.

"The programs are very good for use, either with children or adults who are trying to overcome learning difficulties" (from Popular Computing Weekly)

CARA:**CASA:**

Are you concerned at your child's progress in reading and doing sums? Then CARA and CASA could be just the answer! Helps your child to gain initial confidence and skill at reading – from a single word on the screen chosen at random from your choice of categories (such as 'Animals' or 'Food') for the very young, to as many as nine words per screen for the more experienced child. Also supplied are sentence categories such as 'A day at the seaside' and one about Puddle Lane characters. If you can't see the category you want them make up your own, it's very easy! Adults: use it to learn the French, German, Italian or Spanish vocabulary which is supplied. Interested in Swedish, or any other language using English letters? – then make up your own category! Your child from four to fourteen years old and beyond will enjoy gaining confidence and ability in a wide range of topics in mathematics at different levels of complexity! From simplest addition for the very young child, via shopping bill sums, to algebra, areas of triangles and volumes of brick walls for GCSE studies!

If you like the educational programs on the BBC micro, you'll love CARA and CASA!

"A very interesting and stimulating program"
(from Your Amstrad PCW)

SARA:

Special introductory version of both CARA and CASA on one disc! Includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and percentages at various levels of difficulty.

All products are supplied on 3" discs for Amstrad PCW 8256, 8512 and 8512 computers, and are fully and clearly documented. They are sold exclusively by RDI – we don't use agents – and don't come in gimmicky and expensive packaging! Hence they come to you at sensible prices! Read the reviews in 'Your Amstrad PCW'! Further details of these and our other products and services via 01-641 1064 (including evening and weekend).

Price £14.00 per product or any two for £25.00 (delivered next day, including VAT, postage and packing). Cheque payable to RDI Ltd, please, and state which type of PCW, to:

RDI Ltd, 11 Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 1RS

Into Print!

NEW TRAINING & SUPPORT SERVICES for PCW and PC users

TRAINING COURSES in desktop publishing, word processing, and writing for print. Individual or small group tuition. A break in Lakeland plus high-quality training, tailor-made for you. We use PCWs every day for our writing and publishing work! LocoScript family, Micro Design 2, etc.

SUPPORT SERVICES for writers, publishers and small businesses. Design, typesetting, laser prints, data transfer, image scanning, etc.

CONTACT John Hunt or Penny Hitchin at: Groundwork, Old Gatehouse, Station Square, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6EH.

Tel 05395 33600 for an Into Print leaflet

SIGMA PRESS

TOP PCW AND PC BOOKS BY POST!

Save Time – buy DIRECT. These have had **RAVE REVIEWS**

Mastering the Amstrad 8256/8512£8.95

LocoScript 2 and Amstrad PCW Computers.....£11.95

All-in-One Business Computing: Amstrad PCW and Mini

Office Professional.....£11.95

The SuperCalc SuperBook.....£12.95

Designs on Your Desktop – a comprehensive guide to CAD.....£11.95

Communications and Networks – for the first time user.....£11.95

Postage just £1 for any number of books. For your convenience, phone your order through and pay by VISA or ACCESS.

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY. HUGE FREE CATALOGUE – JUST ASK!

SIGMA PRESS (8000+), 1 SOUTH OAK LANE, WILMSLOW, SK9 6AR.

Phone: 0625 531035. Fax: 0625 536800

New authors welcome – especially for PC books

Small businesses
Self-employed
Professionals
Personal finances
Clubs etc etc

MONEY MANAGER PCW

£49.95

For business, professional or personal use, MONEY MANAGER is the ideal system for managing your money.

Far easier to set up and to use than other accounting software -

- yet packed with an unrivalled range of features for fast, efficient and enjoyable control of your finances.

- All options are selected from a menu
- Any number of data files- business - personal - etc
- 12 months of accounts per file, with up to 500 entries /month
- Move file forward by a month at a time when required
- Up to 20 user-defined accounts (banks, cash, cards, etc)
- Up to 50 user-defined classes of income/expenditure
- Arrange classes into logical groups for powerful analysis
- Design classes to suit your own special environment
- Up to 50 user-defined "marks" for extra report selectivity
- Fast and natural data entry - like adding lines to a statement
- Optional reference (up to 6 characters) for each entry
- Your own descriptive text (up to 18 characters) for each entry
- Your codes are displayed on the screen during data entry
- Add, modify or delete existing items at any time
- Quick Insertion of regular entries/standing orders
- Sort entries into date order at the press of a key
- Specify account/class/class group/mark for each report
- Detailed statements, item by item, for any range of months
- Totals for each class of transaction for one or more months
- Spreadsheet-type table showing class totals for each month
- Reports may be for consolidated class groups
- Report showing class totals for each account
- Account statistics - monthly max, min, average balances etc
- Bar charts for up to three selected categories of entry
- Pie charts for up to 20 selected categories of entry

- Report of monthly income, expenditure and cash-flow
- Report of account and class totals (eg profit & loss etc)
- Automatic calculation of VAT (with multiple rates if required)
- Detailed VAT reports showing taxable, VAT and gross amount
- Summary VAT statements in same format as VAT return
- Simply ignore VAT features if they are not required
- Detailed bank statement reconciliation with running balance
- Budget and cash-flow forecasts - may be updated
- Print any report on built-in PCW printer
- Printing may be switched to a separate printer
- Attached Dot-matrix, Delsy and Laser printers supported
- Print any report to a file for use with Locoscript etc
- Data search facility to find "lost" items
- Full vertical and horizontal screen scrolling of reports
- Pop-up five-function multi-line calculator with memory
- Macros to record and play back sequences of key-strokes
- Context-sensitive help windows appear at the touch of F1 key
- Back-up copies of data files created automatically
- Easy installation routine produces self-starting "turnkey" disc
- Data may be kept on program disc or on separate disc(s)
- Suitable for PCW-9512, PCW-8512 and PCW-8256
- Suitable for single or twin disc systems
- Comprehensive 64 page manual (with index)
- Two sample sets of data provided for initial practice
- Free end indefinite telephone support

Here are some comments from the people who matter and who really know the system - the users:

I am so impressed with the software that I thought you might like to know that I think it is superb and surpasses many other packages I have bought at more than twice the price of Money Manager. Thanks for a fantastic, easy to use piece of software that represents outstanding value for money. O.A.J. (Lincs)

I cannot let this opportunity pass without repeating my satisfaction with Money Manager. I am using it for the book-keeping of several small businesses. Before I retired recently after 40 years in banking, 24 of which were as a branch manager, I would have been delighted if my small (and some not so small) business customers had presented me with figures and statistics of their businesses as produced by Money Manager. It really is a program which, being so easy to use, could save many businesses from the chaos and disaster which can, and so often does, result from poor or non-existent book-keeping. R.A.L. (Cheshire)

Thank you for providing such a marvellous and easy to use program at such a reasonable price. No longer do we guess how much is where and no decisions are made without first consulting Money Manager. K.O. (Milton Keynes)

I think this is the best program that I use on my computers and I have tried quite a few programs! A.B. (Iceland)

I have bought the new Money Manager - and I think it is magnificent. The manual is so rare in the mass market: a well printed, clear, concise, friendly instruction booklet written for us amateurs who really aren't computer experts, and don't particularly want to be. I really do congratulate whoever listened to the market, and whoever wrote the instruction book. Well done indeed! C.P.G. (Hove)

I have been very pleased with the program, in fact it is an indispensable part of my business. My accountant is pleased and I'm sure it saves some of his fees due to the reports etc that I can give him. It's incredible that it can be so good at this price. L.P. (Walsall)

The program is perfect, just what I needed. If it were edible I would have a second portion. N.T. (Wilts)

I should like to say how pleased and impressed I am with Money Manager. It seems to me far simpler, faster and more flexible than any of the other accounts packages I have looked at. I have so far used it to prepare two sets of accounts for a small business, and am delighted with the results. R.O.H. (Yeovil)

I must say that next to my word-processor this has to be my most frequently used program and certainly has made an astounding change to our finances. All in all brilliant! Or I.N.P. (Co Durham)

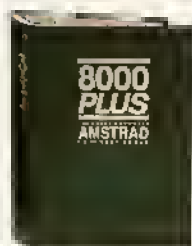
I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating you on an excellent program. I am treasurer of a local cycling club and the help that the program gives me in that job is tremendous, and impresses the auditors too! It is also very useful to be able to keep track of my personal accounts, and know to the penny how much I owe to the various credit card companies. Keep up the good work! J.F.N. (Wilts)

Over 25,000 users can't be wrong!

**Connect
Software Ltd.**

To receive your copy of MONEY MANAGER PCW by return first class post, either send a cheque or phone quoting your Visa, Access or Amex card number for immediate despatch.
Mon-Sun 8am-10pm Price £49.95 includes VAT & postage.
3 Flanchford Road, London W12 9ND Tel 01 743 9792





8000 PLUS COLLECTION

1, 8000 plus dust covers

Protect your PCW with these specially-commissioned three-piece 8000 Plus covers.

2. 8000 Plus T-Shirt

The Truly Terrific American Royal Blue T-shirt with the honour of carrying our 8000 Plus logo on the left breast. Wear yours with pride and set yourself above the rest!

3. Magazine Binders

A superb gold-embossed green binder. Buy one and watch your collection grow into the definitive library of PCW information.

4. PCW Luggage

An essential addition for any PCW owners who want to ensure against accidental knocks when transporting their computer. Ideal for writers on assignment, businessmen when taking the micro to the office, or salesmen for demonstrations.

High density foam padding and a water resistant nylon exterior make this a strong and safe piece of luggage, along with its adjustable shoulder strap and sturdy carry handles.

8256/8512

Two separated pouches for the printer and keyboard, that then fit neatly into the large case but leave room for manuals, etc.

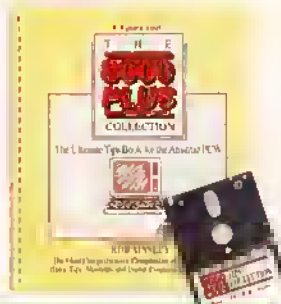
9512

Two large cases for the monitor and printer, with a separated pouch for the keyboard that fits in neatly with the printer but leaves room for manuals, etc.

8000 PLUS COLLECTION

(The Ultimate Tips Book for the Amstrad PCW)

The book is based on the collected tipoffs in **8000 Plus** from issue 1 to the present day and covers every possible facet of PCW use. But it's not just a reprint - every item has been rewritten, re-illustrated and updated where necessary. Plus a whole host of new tips have been added to make this book the essential guide to PCW use.



Title	Order code	Price
Oust covers -		
3 pieceset for 8256/85	128005	£11.95
3 piece set for 9512	8006	£12.95
T-Shirt -		
Medium	8071	£4.95
Large	8072	£4.95
Magazine Binder	8004	£4.95
Two Magazine Binders	8076	£9.00
PCW Luggage -		
8256/8512	8074	£35.95
9512	8073	£49.95

Title	Order code	Price
Tips Book		
Book only	8602	£11.40
Book and disc	8603	£14.40

HiSOFT C from HiSoft (All PCWs)

The fastest C compiler for the PCW. Produces fast, good, compact code.

Carefully designed to make it easy for a newcomer to learn as well as providing the power and flexibility that professional programmers need.

- Full screen editor automatically started on compilation errors.
- Friendly English error messages and hints on how to find bugs.

Title	Order code	Price
HiSoft C	8086	£24.50



HALF PRICE

HiSoft C

Integrated Compiler/Editor

Fast, Standard Integer C Compiler

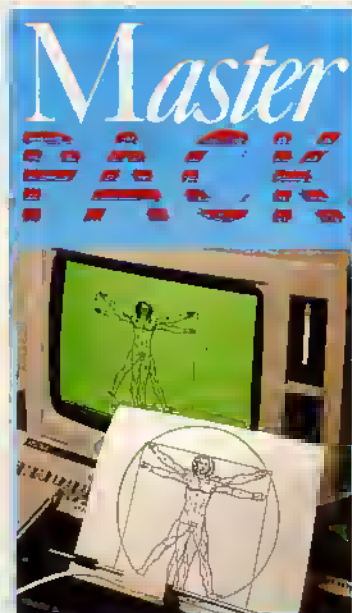
MASTER PACK

from Database Software (8256/8512)
Consisting of Master Paint and Master Scan

SAVE £23

Master Scan: attach the optical scanner to your PCW printer to enable images to be captured for use in art packages and DTP. Capture logos, diagrams, sketches, photos, maps, signatures, cartoon characters and much more. Your letters, reports and bulletins can now be illustrated to create a much more interesting and professional image.

Master Paint: with this package you have everything you need to produce quality, artistic, professional artwork. Create various shapes that can be filled with a choice of 16 different patterns, choose from a range of styles and fonts, use the airbrush for a more subtle shading facility.



Title	Order code	Price
Master pack	8604	£56.95

C-STAM

Transfer files from your PCW to your PC using this brilliant file transfer package.

FREE PACK OF 20 DISC LABELS AND SAVE £10

CSTAM
File transfer system

Leads and 3.5, 5.25, 3 inch disks included.

Title	Order code	Price
C - Stam	8609	£39.95

MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL

FREE PACK OF HIGHLIGHTER PENS AND SAVE £13

Wordprocessor, Database, Spreadsheet, Graphics and Communications.

The new upgraded version including new manual and The All In One Business Computing book (worth £11.95). Import and export Ascii files to and from the database and spreadsheet modules.



Title	Order code	Price
Mini Office Professional	B610	£26.95

BACK ISSUES ...



We have limited quantities of the back issues listed below. The prices include a nominal 25p postage. All issues contain excellent TipOff sections and a selection of BASIC listings, plus the other regulars. Don't miss the chance to expand your collection!

Issue 21	£1.75	Order Code 80021
Issue 24	£1.75	Order Code 80024
Issue 25	£1.75	Order Code 80025
Issue 30	£1.75	Order Code 80030
Issue 32	£1.75	Order Code 80032
Issue 33	£2.00	Order Code 80033
Issue 34	£2.00	Order Code 80034
Issue 35	£2.00	Order Code 80035
Issue 36	£2.00	Order Code 80036
Issue 37	£2.00	Order Code 80037
Issue 38	£2.00	Order Code 80038
Issue 39	£2.00	Order Code 80039
Issue 40	£2.00	Order Code 80040
Issue 41	£2.00	Order Code 80041
Issue 42	£2.00	Order Code 80042

ORDER FORM NO.43

HOW TO ORDER

Just list the items you require in the order form below or ring our 24 - hour hotline on (0458) 74011 and ask for Credit Card Orders. All goods are sent by first class post, normally within five days of order. But please allow 28 days in case of temporary shortage.

Payment is by (please circle)

Cheque ● PO ● Access ● Visa
Make payable to FUTURE PUBLISHING LTD.

Your credit card number is _____

Expiry date _____

For prices and delivery times for export orders please call Kelly Porter on 0458 74011

	Title	Order code	Price
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Please send me the following items from the 8000 Plus Special Offers pages

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

**ACCESS/VISA
HOTLINE
0458 74011
24 HOURS**

Send this form plus payment to: SPECIAL OFFERS • 8000 Plus •
SOMERTON • SOMERSET • TA11 7PY

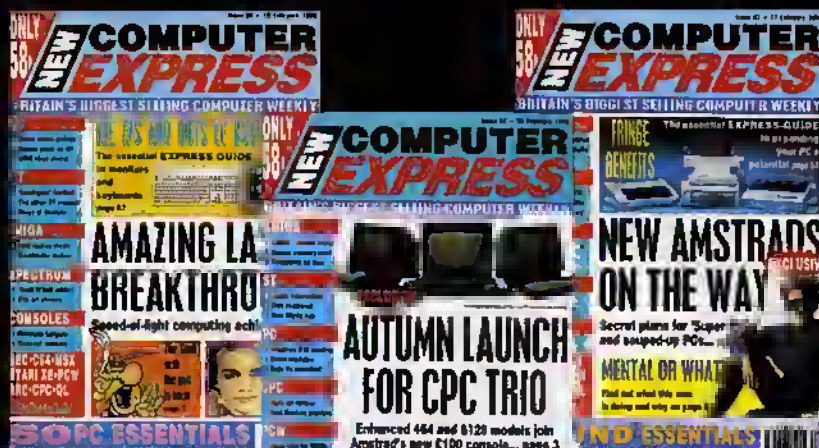
TAKE THE EXPRESS CHALLENGE!

Money back if not delighted!

Every week **New Computer Express** is packed with vital information

about the PCW. New games. New products. New prices. New bargains. New sensations that you simply cannot afford to miss.

Every week **New Computer Express** provides expert news coverage. A hand-picked team of journalists brings the fastest, most authoritative news week in, week out. From all around the world, anything exciting about the PCW will be in Express.



Every week **New Computer Express** is simply irresistible. If you're at all serious about getting the most out of your machine, then you just have to have Express.

DON'T BELIEVE US?

Then take **THE EXPRESS CHALLENGE**:

Simply buy **New Computer Express** and we're convinced you'll be hooked. If you're not, then send us the mastheads of four consecutive weeks from March to the end of April 1990, together with your reasons for not liking **New Computer Express**. We'll then refund your £2.32 purchase in full.

Can you really afford to miss out?

Name

Address

Postcode

Age Machine owned

I would like my money back on New Computer Express because

I enclose four consecutive mastheads from New Computer Express March /April 1990 issues ☐

Send to:

The Express You Can't Say Fairer Than That Promotion,
Future Publishing, The Old Barn,
Somerton,
Somerset TA11 7PY.

Offer closes May 4th 1990

Newsagents: New Computer Express is distributed by Comag.

MEDIA <>> CHANGE
A Member of the Avenue Group
Is Proud and Pleased to announce
our Appointment as
AUTHORISED DEALERS for
**LOCOMOTIVE
SOFTWARE**



And are accepting advanced orders now for
Locoscript PC

Send no remittance but reserve your copy
by sending your order to:
The Avenue Group
8 Fourth Avenue Havant Hants PO9 2QX

LISTING PAPER

11 x 9.50	Boxed	£ Box
50gsm 1 part (M)	2000	12.95
70gsm 1 part (M)	2000	14.18
80gsm 1 part (M)	2000	16.99
90gsm 1 part (M)	1000	10.41
2 part NCR	1000	18.94

A4 11.56 x 9.25

50gsm 1 part (M)	2000	18.85
70gsm 1 part (M)	2000	17.50
80gsm 1 part (M)	2000	20.38
90gsm 1 part (M)	1000	11.46

(M) = Micro Perforated

11 x 14.50

50gsm 1 part P or R 2000	17.57
70gsm 1 part P or R 2000	20.32
2 part NCR 1000	21.28

P = Plain R = Ruled

RIBBONS

TOP QUALITY COMPATIBLE		EACH
8256/8512	NYLON	4.48
8256/8512	M-STRIKE	5.20
9512	NYLON	3.84
9512	M-STRIKE	3.64

RIBBONS FOR ALL PRINTERS AVAILABLE

ENVELOPES

DL (110 x 220) 90gsm WHITE S-SEAL	PLAIN	13.68/1000
DL (110 x 220) 90gsm WHITE S-SEAL	WINDOW	14.84/1000
C4 (324x 229) 90gsm MANILLA S-SEAL	PLAIN	11.13/250

THESE ARE JUST EXAMPLES OF OUR VERY LARGE RANGE OF ITEMS AVAILABLE

WE CAN SUPPLY A COMPLETE RANGE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES INCLUDING OUR OWN RANGE OF LETTER TRAYS TAPE DISPENSERS, LEVER ARCH FILES ETC

PLEASE TELEPHONE FOR DETAILS



APEX

OFFICE SUPPLIES
Callers welcome

PAPER & ENVELOPES ADD £5.00 CARRIAGE UP TO 20 BOXES
RIBBONS - CARRIAGE FREE. ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT
CHEQUES WITH ORDER PLEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

2 JAMESON ROAD, WOOLSTON, SOUTHAMPTON
TEL: 0703 685705 FAX: 0703 685706

External Disc Drives

8256, 8512 & 9512 External Drive B Disc Drives

TEAC FD235F 3.5" Drives in quality heavy steel cases, grey texture finished. £90
TEAC FD55 FR 5.25" Drives in grey texture finished steel cases. £95

ADD A THIRD DRIVE TO A TWIN DRIVE PCW

As above but with additional switched cabling which allows the Drive to be selected as an alternative Drive B.

3.5" £105 5.25" £110

Easy to fit - all plug in - full year's guarantee -
7 day money back if not satisfied - prices include P&P and VAT.

Disks 5.25" £5 for 10 Disks 3.5" £10 for 10

Unit 9, Bondor Business Centre,
London Road,
BALDOCK SG7 6HP
Tel: 0462 894410



MAKE YOUR AMSTRAD EARN!

Yes making money with your Amstrad becomes incidental when you know how. Your micro is, if only you knew it, a gold mine. The size and make is irrelevant. Make the initial effort NOW by starting your own

HOME BASED BUSINESS

This may be the most important move you will ever make!

REMEMBER: You'll never get rich by digging someone else's 'ditch'. Anyone in the country, including YOU, can become very rich in a relatively short period of time just by doing a few basic things! It's more rewarding than playing games. The benefits are many and varied. Full or part time. For FREE details send S.A.E. to:



HOME BASED BUSINESS

31, PILTON PLACE (8 + 15)
KING AND QUEEN STREET,
WALWORTH, LONDON SE17 1DR

CLIP ART

FOR
MICRO DESIGN 2 - FLEET ST. EDITOR
DESKTOP PUBLISHER & STOP PRESS
ON 3 DISC FOR THE PCW
(STATE DESKTOP FORMAT REQUIRED)

75 GRAPHICS FOR £9.99
INC P&P

AGB ILLUSTRATIONS

5 Queens Drive, Prestwich,
Manchester, M25 8HQ



Three Inch Software

2nd Floor, 73 Surbiton Road,
Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2HG.

3 INCH THESAURUS.....£14.95

Requires PCW8512 or PCW9512 and LocoFile
Over 12,000 Index words accessing a 780k LocoFile database designed according to Roget's scheme

LOCOFILE PCW 8256/8512 or PCW9512 (state which).....£28.95

Requires LocoScript 2

PCW9512 Rescue Kit.....£9.95

Allows a PCW9512 user to copy files to a disc which can be read on a PCW8256

LocoMail and LocoFile programs and databases designed to suit you - send full written details at your needs for a free quotation.



Access/Mastercard orders telephone 0(8)1 546 2754

LETTA-HEAD PLUS

Design letterheads, receipts, posters, labels, tickets for home or small business. Create your design by placing text in any combination of fonts in any mixture of 81 different sizes anywhere on screen. Add graphics in the form of lines, arcs, circles, ellipses, shading and icons. When you're happy, print headings in a choice of 18 different sizes, use your design in labels up to 4" x 2" in size or print groups of designs as a poster. Easy to use program includes full instruction manual, 15 fonts and a font and icon designer.

Price £18.50 inclusive.

ALSO WordFinder - THE program for word game enthusiasts.

Price £13.50



**BRADWAY SOFTWARE (8P),
"HILLSETT", UPPER PADLEY,
GRINDLEFORD, SHEFFIELD, S30 1JA.**



**CUT YOUR
ESTIMATING
TIME IN HALF**

And

A FAST, WELL PROVEN
PROFESSIONAL SYSTEM
DESIGNED SPECIALLY
FOR BUILDING WORK
RUNS ON ANY PC
OR PCW COMPUTER
SUPER EASY TO USE

GET A DETAILED TIME &
MATERIALS BREAKDOWN FOR
EVERY JOB - AUTOMATICALLY

CALL NOW
0387-88612

for your FREE
INFORMATION
PACK

Only
£149

MCGREGOR
ESTIMATING SYSTEMS

Available only to Building Trade Professionals

POSTSCRIPT

If you've got anything to say — say it here!

Welcome to the listening pages of your favourite PCW magazine. If you've got anything to pass on, you can always be sure of a prominent platform and an eager audience here. And it doesn't even have to be about computers. These are your pages; do with them what you will. Send your letters to Postscript, 8000 Plus, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2AP

Radio killed the VDU star

Towards the end of last year, I purchased an 8256 and have been thoroughly delighted with it. I use it for both its word processor and its computer capabilities. Consequently, it is used a fair amount, and that is where the problem lies.

My family enjoys listening to the radio. They don't spurn television, it's simply that there are a number of radio programmes they enjoy, or at least did enjoy. Unfortunately, the computer causes considerable interference with FM (VHF) reception. I have tried simple solutions like suggesting that they retune to medium wave but this has been received with more abuse than I think is reasonable for a well-balanced family unit.

I enquired in my local radio shop, but they were unable to suggest anything. I have not seen any such device advertised at all and am wondering if you, or anyone else has come across a similar problem and perhaps a solution.

It is worth adding that I am not an engineering genius; the simpler the better is, therefore, the philosophy I follow.

My compliments to you for a most enjoyable, and useful, magazine.

A N Stoneman
Folkestone
Kent

8000 PLUS: You don't say how far away from each other the radio and PCW are situated. We have heard of this happening

before now, especially when the PCW and radio are within ten or fifteen feet of one another. If increasing the distance between them doesn't work, your best bet is to get your radio wired up to an external aerial — like your television. You will be able to get one of these from your local Dixons store for about £40. Expensive, we know, but it will cut out any FM interference you are getting.

Juggling clubs

It is my intention to buy a computer word processor for my business/pleasure use; the Amstrad range seems to be a likely choice. As a previously non-computer person, I have so many questions that it would not be possible to list them all. Therefore, could you please let me have the address and/or phone number of any club or association in my area that could give me advice or possibly even some practical experience before I spend a lot of money — maybe buying the wrong one.

It may be that a second hand computer would suffice, one which had been outgrown by a more advanced user.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

F A Kosek
Redhill
Surrey

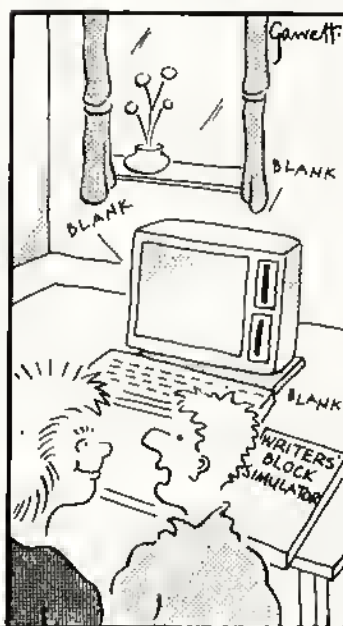
8000 PLUS: We're afraid that the nearest (and it's not that near) fully-operational PCW club to Redhill is the Middlesex PCW Computer Group which gathers fortnightly at the Hanwell Community Centre in Greenford. Talk to the group's secretary, Ken Ritchie, on 0992 583744 for further

Information. Since it does seem quite a long way for you to travel, however, we've placed an 'alert' in the Club News section of this month's magazine — on page 7 — to see if anybody else in Redhill or the surrounding area is interested in starting up a club. We will, as they say, keep you posted in future issues of the magazine.

The write stuff

Thank you for a very interesting March issue. I have not long retired and recently taken up an evening class in Creative Writing. I have seen the odd article on writing in 8000 Plus in the recent past, but in the current issue there were three excellent related articles: 1) Be your own publisher 2) Demon Writer 3) Rosemary's Baby. I like to read of people's experiences with various software. Tests and reports are all very well, but sometimes a few remarks from the ultimate customer are far more enlightening.

Frank Dineen
Essex



"THIS SIMULATES THE FEELING YOU GET LOOKING AT A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER"

8000 PLUS: Thanks for your letter, Frank

A ghost in the machine

Could you tell me why my PCW won't work anymore? A bald question I know but there you go — I am a desperate man! I will, however, proceed to give you the story so far ...

I bought my PCW8512 from KLDMS Ltd of Surbiton seven years ago and up until last week it

worked like a dream. Also up until that point I had never used anything other than LocoScript 1 and DISCKIT to format my disc. Well, last Monday my daughter, Yolanda, brought home a disc which she had got from a friend at school. I know that this kind of thing is not really on but Yolanda said something about Public Dominion and assured me that it was all 'above board'. She asked me if she could "Run" the disc and I, of course said yes.

She was working in what we like to call the office, and I was watching the television. Well, the day after, I went to write a few letters and upon switching on the machine the following message appeared. "You have just logged into the Rilapax Empire and your machine is no longer yours." I obviously thought that Yolanda had been playing some tricks — she is very good at computer studies. So, I switched off and on again and put in a new start-of-day disc. The following message appeared, "Ha Ha sucker, we of the Rilapax Empire do not give in so easily — if you wish to regain control of your machine you should send \$25.00 to this address." There followed a PO Box number and address in America. Since then my PCW has refused to function and every time I try all I get are more messages and more requests for money. Eventually I received what I can only call a final demand. This said that my PCW's Zilog 80 would be "blown to s*****" if I tried turning it on again. Needless to say, I have not tried.

I can assure you that Yolanda was as surprised as myself, and so were her friend and his father who works a great deal with computers. I refuse to send any money and have written to the address in protest. Do you know anything about this? Has it happened to a PCW before in your experience? Is it a virus? Please could you help — as you can see by my handwriting I need my PCW badly.

Mr K Cox
Berkhamstead

8000 PLUS: Well, Mr Cox, the good news is that we have heard of this. Yours is only one of several letters we have received over the last two weeks. When you said Public Dominion we think that you are actually referring to the Public Domain. This is normally a reputable and enjoyable area to get involved in but this time it seems to have turned rather sour.

We contacted the Public Domain Central Enquiries Unit in Cheadle Hume and their spokesman, Mr Carroway, told us the following. "This sounds very much like the SparGax virus which was prevalent on

the West Coast of America – principally California – late last year. In January of this year court proceedings were taken out against a Mr J D Haldreman and a Ms P Erlichmeine of San Fernando by the American authorities. It appears that they had flooded the States and Canada with a whole variety of viruses and demands for money. Unhappily they skipped bail. It now looks as if they have ended up in England."

The bad news is that there is still no cure for the virus other than to replace the Z80 central processor which is attacked by SparGax or rather by this SparGax clone. You will also need to replace the two M12/FF3's (or 2's if your machine was made before 1980) math co-processor chips. Sorry about that and better luck next time. If anyone knows anymore about Haldreman, Erlichmeine, SparGax or any other viruses, we would be most interested to hear.

Talk to me

I am a user of the PCW 8256 and all my friends have Amigas and Ataris which I think have more K than the PCW. I am only interested in programming, etc., not playing games; anyway, my friends have software to make their computer talk. Please could you write or tell me if there is software for the PCW to make speech. If so, could you also tell me how much it is and where I could purchase it from.

Robert Shore
Addlestone
Surrey

8000 PLUS: You can get your PCW to talk to you by means of SM Engineering's Speech Synthesiser. The Synthesiser costs £35 and has, at its heart, the dedicated speech chip. SP0256AL2, from General Instruments. It comes with a Centronics parallel printer port connector on the back which means that it will connect to any Centronics interface on any computer. For further information, either read our review of the Synthesiser in our January edition or call SM Engineering on 0323 766262.

Computer literacy

Having recently purchased an Amstrad 8512 and not minding being called computer illiterate, I have been searching for any information about the machine I can find readable. The accompanying literature supplied with the machine starts off aimed at me then progressively becomes unreadable.

I have now found a book 'Easy Guide to Amstrad PCW 8256/8512 Word Processors' by ED Wynn which is marvellous and covers the WP at exactly my level.

Now I need to find a book that covers the PC side. Can you help?

I find your magazine helpful but please, please have an article each month aimed at me and people like me. One of the reasons for buying the machine was to be able to log all my golf scores and analyse them. Can anyone help?

D Smith
Camberley
Surrey

8000 PLUS: We most certainly can. On pages 18 and 19, you will find the definitive 8000 Plus guide to the best PCW reading around; between them, the books on display cover both the word processing and micro computing sides of the machine. So please have a read.

As for incorporating more articles in the magazine aimed at people like you, we try to do that every month, Mr/Ms Smith; take a look at our long-running LocoScript tutorials and the new Masterfile 8000 series. If there is something specific that you would like us to consider, then please drop us another line. And yes, ED Wynn's book is good; have a look at our review of it on page 51.

Bible society

Without your magazine, life with my PCW8512 would have been very limited indeed. In addition, I have been intrigued at how often, just when I was wondering about the possibility of a particular application for the machine, lo and behold I see that it is mentioned in the pages of 8000 Plus.

Just recently, I was wondering if somewhere I could find the Four Gospels of the New Testament on computer for easy access of any quotation. And there it is reported in your March issue! But now for my complaint. Not for the first time have I been frustrated by your omission of the address of the supplier. True, you do give a telephone number. But I do not have a telephone; and even if I had, the cost of telephoning the British mainland from Ireland would be way beyond what I could afford, as I have been some years unemployed.

So please may I ask you to include the address of the supplier with any products you review. And I will be grateful if you can send me the address for Bible Society Software at the Bible Society of Scotland as mentioned on page 5 of the March issue.

Michael Walsh
Co. Kilkenny
Ireland

8000 PLUS: We consider ourselves soundly rebuked and promise to try harder.

The address you need is as follows: The Bible Society of Scotland, 7 Hampton Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5XU. Any readers South of the border should contact this one: The Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG.

Speedy recoveries

I cannot recommend too highly the prompt service offered by the Disc Doctors (see News Plus, March 1990).

A nearly full disc carrying all my correspondence over many months ceased communicating with my PCW 9512. This resulted from my failure to follow the correct procedure when making a copy. I do not keep carbon copies.

The disc was sent to Dave Smith with a brief note explaining the circumstances and was back with me, fully restored, copied and with a print-out of the contents in two days.

It may have taken only a few minutes to rectify, but that is immaterial and recalls the story of the expert who charged a shilling for pressing the button and fifty guineas for knowing which button to press. Splendid too, that two deserving charities receive this welcome support.

Thanks also to Mrs Haffenden who gave me the number to call, and no hint that the number you gave was incorrect, or that she had nothing to do with the surgery.

Graeme MacLennan
West Malling
Kent

8000 PLUS: Yes, not one of our brightest editorial achievements, that one. Still, we did print an apology in last month's News Plus. For those of you who have just tuned in, we're talking about the data recovery procedures for damaged 3" discs performed by Daves Smith and Oxford. All proceeds go to BACUP (cancer research charity) or the Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association. Call 089 2835974 for further information. Thank you once again, Mrs Haffenden, for patience above and beyond the call of duty.

All presents and correct

Greetings from an avid and faithful reader of your excellent publication, right from issue number one. It has helped me immeasurably.

Now I have a set of most issues sitting on my shelves gathering dust. I wonder if there is any reader who would benefit from them more than I now do? If you were kind enough to mention this in

your magazine, I would be ready to pass them on (at slender cost) to any reader who gave me a ring (Oxford 310702).

Thanks for continuing to be a help.

Edward Peters
Oxford

8000 PLUS: Thanks for your help, Edward. I know that back issues are available from our office in Somerton (phone 0458 74011) at a cost of £2 each. Unfortunately, some of our most popular issues from the past have now sold out, in which case, there might be a few readers willing to take you up on your offer.

Roller remedy

In reference to N Dixon's letter (Slip sliding away, March Postscript) regarding the printer roller, I would suggest he tries a reputable typewriter stockist/repairers. One suitable liquid cleaner I know of is called 'DR SCAT' made in the USA for this specific job. Hope this is of some help. PS: Great mag; very informative.

Andy Barnes
Romford

8000 PLUS: Thanks for your letter, Andy, on behalf of everybody who is still slipping around out there.

Letting the dust settle

I have been a PCW user for about nine months now and am completely hooked. For my pocket and needs, the Locomotive range is ideal.

Perhaps I could make a plea to the brilliant Locomotive people to consider producing a spreadsheet to finish off the suite? Many existing Loco users would jump at such an addition.

Now to the main point of my writing. Do any of the staff at 8000 Plus or its doubtless billions of readers know of a company that manufactures or sells dust covers for the printer of the PCW 9512 with the cut sheet feeder in situ?

I have scoured all my local computer shops and they are unable to come up with the goods. I have regularly examined the pages of 8000 Plus and do not recall ever seeing the ASF unit mentioned in the same sentence as dust covers. I have written to several companies and have either drawn a blank or have simply been sent their unsatisfactory standard leaflets. I have even, in desperation, turned to the

POSTSCRIPT

pages of other magazines, but never again!

I am sure that there are suitable dust covers around, so please would those involved let us know about them. There are, after all, many sheet feeders around and plenty of owners who wish to protect their equipment.

I look forward to ceremoniously discarding the tea-towel that I currently use.

**Roger Hall
Norwich**

8000 PLUS: Not knowing of any such dust cover ourselves, we've just spoken to Nick Hewer at Michael Joyce Consultants who has told us that as far as he is aware, no such product is as yet in existence. So, unless anybody knows otherwise (letters into Postscript please), don't shred your tea-towel just yet!

Northern Lights

I read March's Case in Point with enthusiasm because it seemed to offer me the opportunity of putting forward my services in a quarter where they would be likely to be welcomed.

Since Mrs Tympany seems to be saying that her Northern Star Literary Agency has been established for some while, I was a little surprised not to be able to find it in *The Writers' Handbook* or in *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* – the more so as she mentions the latter in her article, and refers to it as being 'ubiquitous'.

I next took recourse to the ordinary 'phone book and to the Yellow Pages for Preston, which is where Mrs Tympany suggests her business is situated. Nothing.

Finally, I tried Directory Enquiries. They say they have no knowledge of any Northern Star Literary Agency, nor of any telephone subscriber called Tympany.

I'm sure you will appreciate that this all poses questions which I don't need to spell out. I'll be interested to know if you can disclose any answers to them.

Thanks, and best wishes for the continuing health of *8000 Plus*.

**Mike Ninnim
Burnley
Lancashire**

8000 PLUS: Last month's Case in Point seems to have provoked a surprising amount of interest. For the record, the company's reputation is blameless; it is still a young company and their entry into *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* is currently being processed. For further enquiries, Rosemary Tympany's phone number is as follows: 0772 702186.

Logging on signing off

As the author of the COMM+ software mentioned in Andrew Bibby's article on Volnet in your March issue, I read the piece with more than usual interest and concern, as it failed to live up to the usual high standards maintained by your magazine.

The impression Mr Bibby gives is that while COMM+ connected up to Volnet satisfactorily, he would rather have used Dialup, Chitchat or MOP instead as they are less complex. I would have thought it obvious that the reason why such packages are unable to connect to Volnet properly is precisely because they are designed for simpler and more standard applications, while COMM+ will work on almost any computer with almost any modem and connect to almost any host machine via a comprehensive range of terminal emulations.

For the record, I would like to point out that COMM+ did connect up to Volnet and the terminal emulation worked on the first try. The customisation needed was simply to enable the PCW to emulate the DEC function keys that Volnet requires – this could also be done by Amstrad's rather less friendly SETKEYS utility if you really don't like the way COMM+ does it.

To suggest that an alternative package would be better because it would be less complex is to miss the whole point of why simpler packages can't do the job in the first place.

One more matter concerns the unprofessionalism of the article: I do think you were entirely wrong to print a screen dump of Mr Bibby's log-on sequence for Volnet complete with usernames, ID codes and passwords. I was quite shocked to see this and even more shocked to discover on connecting up through my local Mercury 5200 node that the published details were still valid at the time of publication. For a computer magazine to do this to an educational computer running a charitable database in the current climate of anti-hacking hysteria is inexcusable. If you decide to publish this part of the letter, please confirm that the log-on details no longer work before going to print.

**Andrew Margolis
Margolis and Co
London**

8000 PLUS: Yes, it may be time for a quick rap over the knuckles for the old 8000

Plus team. Paddy though it no doubt sounds, the excuse is a classic one: a snarl-up in communications between production and art teams. You see, we had originally intended to blank out the information which you're referring to. Still, we can now allay your fears. Having spoken to a minimally concerned Jenny Harmon at VOLNET, she informs us that Andrew Bibby's log-on sequence was only supposed to be valid until the end of January anyway and that they now have the software which allows them to disable the passwords. As she points out, PCW owners are not hackers.

Master class revisited

I will certainly renew my subscription if you continue to run articles like Masterfile 8000 in the latest issue. Campbell Systems' demos are not good enough. They don't explain 'how to do it.' They just set you problems without any solutions! See their demo concerning Relational Files. I hope you can explain them. Perhaps it's the minute print in their 'cheapo' explanatory booklet – I can hardly read it and tire easily.

Once an avid buyer of programs I've stopped, disillusioned by being unable to understand the directions. Nor do I take kindly to printing out reams of guff (nearly always incomprehensible) from a disc. Clear directions are possible; see your first article on Masterfile 8000 and Hughes' book on Mini Office Professional and the official manual for LocoScript, to mention just a few.

Finally, on something completely different, I wonder if any of your readers continued to update the *8000 Plus* index started by the late Henning Brondum-Nielson of Perthshire. It so, I'm sure many would like to know and be willing to pay for updating their present discs.

**Murray Wren
London**

8000 PLUS: Yes, how about it Murray? And thanks for the support.

Victim Supported

At last, a Good Samaritan! Someone saw your excellent write up of our request for a PCW and contacted a firm in Southampton, Mr Benians of 'VEROSPEED' sprang to our rescue and we are now the proud possessors of a second-hand 8512 which he has kindly guaranteed for one year. They do not normally have second

hand machines but had had one in for repairs which had not been collected so were able to let us have it for a very reasonable price. They also have another similar one (telephone 0703 641111 ask for Mr Benians) but that will be the last – there can be no repeats in the future.

Thank you 'VEROSPEED' and thank you *8000 Plus* – we will now be able to cope more efficiently with the regrettable increase in the numbers of Victims of Crime, by streamlining office procedures and filing.

**WG Calvert
Victim Support
Petworth
W. Sussex**

8000 PLUS: Glad to be of help.

Calling all teachers

I am an English teacher in an 11-18 comprehensive school. I am also the proud (if rather bleary-eyed) owner of an Amstrad 8512.

I have spent many nights/weekends during the last year or so trying to explore ways in which I can use my 8512 to help me cope with some of the demands of my job. LocoScript, LocoFile, Masterfile 8000, Stop Press and several other programs have been extremely useful, and I am beginning to find that lesson-planning, the writing of pupil profiles, worksheet production, stock recording and several other regular tasks are becoming far more efficient – and, joy of joys, less time-consuming – than they once were.

It occurs to me that there are probably other English teachers tapping away into the small hours and investing just as much time and effort in the production of such badly-needed teaching aids: no doubt they will have come up with different applications, or perhaps tackled some of the areas that I have mentioned above more effectively. I would very much like to get in touch with such colleagues so that we can share our ideas, swap discs etc. If you could pass the message on through Post Script, I would be very grateful. I can be contacted on 0205 760835.

I have found your magazine so useful that I have renewed my subscription, so keep up the good work!

**John Ravenscroft
Lincolnshire**

8000 PLUS: Cheers for your correspondence.

INBUSINESS PCW from cavalier software

8 Lausanne Road, London, SE15 2HU



**CAVALIER
SOFTWARE**

**PO BOX 32, LONDON
SE15 2HS**

INBUSINESS MENU

- A. Simple Invoicing
 - B. Stock Control
 - C. Retail Stock Control & Labels
 - D. Order Processing & Invoicing
 - E. Customer/Supplier Database
 - F. Nominal Ledger
 - G. Retail Cash Accounting
 - H. Sales Ledger
 - I. Purchase Ledger
 - J. Period-end Accounting & Audit
 - K. Report Generator
 - L. Contract Accounting
- PLEASE MAKE YOUR SELECTION

The complete integrated stock control, invoicing and full accounting system for the AMSTRAD PCW. Suitable for retailers, wholesalers, builders, accountants and almost any other small business

PRICES (including VAT)

Simple Invoicing	(menu options A & E)	34.95	Lifetime Support
INSTOCK II	(menu options B to E)	74.95	
INTACT II	(menu options E to J)	74.95	
Report Generator	(menu option K)	14.95	
INBUSINESS PCW	(menu options B to K)	149.90	Requires INSTOCK II
Contract Accounts	(menu option L)	59.95	Requires INTACT II

WE ALSO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SPECIALIST SYSTEMS

TELEADD	(Name & Address database ideal for home, club membership etc.)	29.95
HOMEVIEW	(Estate Agents matching & mailing systems)	195.44
DINER	(Restaurant and Fast food Menu, Stock and Billing System)	59.95
NEWSBOY	(Newsagent & Paper Round & Billing System)	59.95
RE-CHORD	(Music Library Database)	29.95
HOTEL	(Hotel Reservations & Billing System)	99.95

All options are menu driven, so are simple to operate.

An Installation Program is provided for all AMSTRAD PCW computers.

All carry free lifetime HOTLINE support and require no disc swapping.

All programs fully integrated with all other programs, so you can buy a single module to start and when you are ready, add further modules to provide a complete business system

No Disc Swapping



Tel: 01-639 6683 for more details or to place your order



ADVERTISERS INDEX

A-Z Computer Services.....	41	Keystrokes Ltd.....	72
Abacus Software.....	72	Lindex.....	72
Advantage.....	56	Locomotive Software 14, 17, 38	
AG Booth Illustrations.....	85	Manx Tapes.....	61
Amstrad User Club.....	4	Margin Maker.....	71
Ansible Information.....	56	McGregor Software.....	85
Apex Office Supplies.....	85	Meridian Software.....	64
Arnor Ltd.....	58	Miles Better.....	77
Astrocalc.....	56	MJC.....	66
BBD Dust Covers.....	32	Moonstone Computing.....	44
Bradway Software.....	85	Newstar Software Ltd.....	OBC
Brainstorm.....	89	Noms de Plume.....	72
Brimarden.....	77	Novatech.....	72
Caspell.....	28	Pandaal Marketing.....	62
Cavelier Software.....	89	PCW Software Library.....	72
Compact Micro.....	71	PCW World.....	31
Composit Software.....	13	Pinboard Computers.....	85
Compumart.....	IBC	RSC.....	22-23
Computing Plus.....	31	SCA Systems.....	9
Comstax Ltd.....	31	Silicon City.....	33
Connect Software.....	81	Siren Software.....	61
Copy Comm.....	55	SK Marketing.....	49
Creative Technology.....	9	Software Imperative.....	37
CTC.....	77	Special Reserve.....	74
Data Access.....	62	Suredata.....	62
Dunning.....	44	The Avenue Group.....	85
HD Design.....	77	Three Inch Software.....	85
Headline Communications.....	62	Thurston Techniques.....	31, 71
Home Based Business.....	85	Timatic Systems.....	64
HTB.....	72	Wave.....	62
Intracat.....	32	West of Britain.....	6
J+H Training.....	77	Wight Scientific.....	56
Jem.....	IFC	Worldwide.....	32
K & M Computers.....	77		

BRAINSTORM

Successful projects, reports, courses, meetings and presentations can be yours with BrainStorm

- It's an ideas organiser
- It enhances and encourages your thinking and creativity
- It lets you build and rearrange maps of your thoughts
- It's so fast, it never impedes your creative flow
- It's quick to learn and is genuinely easy to use
- It's a tried and tested product with thousands of users
- It comes with a full tutorial and reference manual
- It's sold and supported by the experts - its authors

Please send me:

- ☐ Amstrad PCW disk - only
BrainStorm - I enclose £29.99
The manual is on disk in both
LocoScript and ASCII text formats.

**£29.99
all inclusive**

☐ Further information

My name is _____

My address is _____

Tel _____

**Please make your cheque out to BrainStorm Software.
Our address is: FREEPOST, Ruislip, Middx., HA4 8BR.**

(Our full address is 18 Courtlands Close, Ruislip, Middx., HA4 8AX. Tel: 0895 677845).

COMPETITION

Win this month's competition and your plans will be made clear!



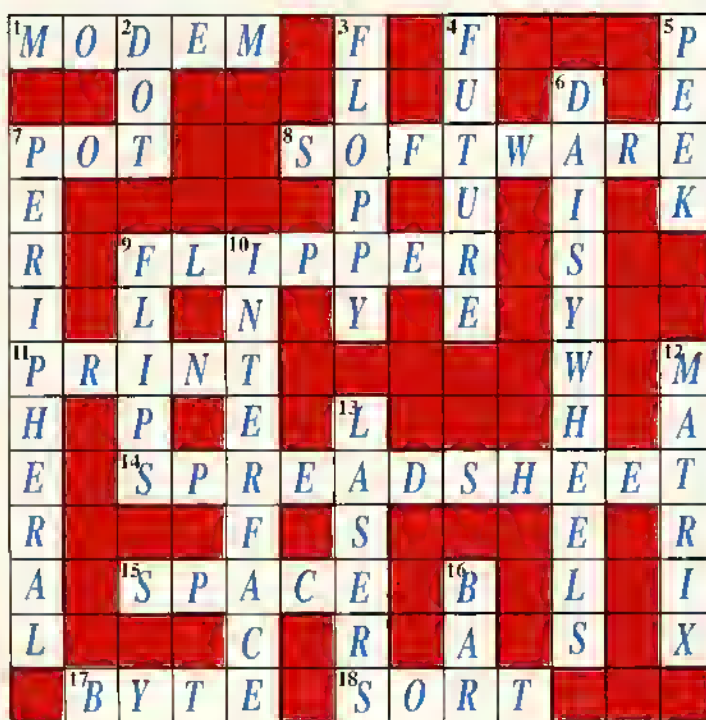
A four letter solution could bring you software on tap to simplify draughting

This month's competition could see you bidding to take your place beside the Frank Lloyd Wrights and the Corbuses of this world. Yes, up for grabs are three copies of PCWdraw, kindly donated by HTB Computing.

So what's it all about? You might well ask. PCWdraw (which we reviewed in our July '89 issue) is the CAD (Computer Aided Design) draughting package for the PCW. As such, it can help you with any kind of design that necessitates the drawing up of clear, unmuddled plans on a regular basis. Furniture design and building plans are just two uses which spring to mind. So what do you have to do to win a copy? It couldn't be simpler. Just provide the missing letters in our word circle above and send it in to us by Friday 4th May.

Crossword winners

Cast your minds back to our February back page competition. We asked all those of you interested in winning packs of DGA's educational Ultimate Quiz, Word and Sums to fill in the crossword submitted by one of our readers. Our congratulations go to Liz and David Owen from Frizington in Cumbria, Ian Wilson from Surrey, A L Charles from Alderney and SH Coutts from Nanteuil-Auriac-de-Bourzac in France who correctly completed the cross(see right).



Next month

Cash flow forecast

We will be taking for its first test run Cashmaster, a computerised ledger system for the home and small business user. A completely needs-driven program, IntraSet Ltd say that they wrote it with ordinary non-accountant people like you and me in mind. If it sounds like the solution to your accounting prayers, read on!

Fitting the 5.25 inch drive

This is the definitive guide to fitting the 5.25" drive to your PCW. Everything you ever wanted to know will be on display – including why you would ever want to do it in the first place, not to mention where you would start. 8000 Plus will be taking you through a fully-illustrated walk-through and answering any questions you might have along the way.

Fax – the way to do it (Part II)

Where we failed this month, next month we will definitely be breaking all boundaries to bring the latest news on Amstrad's new fax machine. How will it improve your lot as a PCW owner? Buy next month's issue and find out.

Minding your Ps and Qs

Do you slope to the left or right? The way you dot your Is and cross your Ts can reveal a lot about you. We'll be looking at a new program for the PCW which, say its creators, can analyse your handwriting.

Of mice and men

The Kempston Mouse has had a bit of a facelift. We'll be putting away the old and bringing out the new and finding out just where those improvements are in hardware and software alike. We will also be reviewing the latest upgrade to HTB Draw – so stay tuned.

8000 PLUS

The May issue of 8000 Plus will be on sale from April 26th. Hurry up and reserve your copy now!

**FREE
FAST
DELIVERY**

Computart

SPRING SALE

SPECIAL LIMITED OFFERS

NO HIDDEN EXTRAS. ALL PRICES NOW INCLUDE V.A.T.

Amsoft

**3" CF2
DISKS**

**Don't risk losing
your valuable data**

- Genuine Amsoft
- Guaranteed Quality and Reliability
- Buy from the UK's LARGEST SUPPLIER

BOX OF FIVE £12.94

BOX OF TEN £22.89

SPECIAL LOW PRICE

**CF-2
COMPACT FLOPPY DISC**

**PCW
STARTER
PACKS**

**SAVE £££££'S
PCW 8 SERIES - DELUXE
STARTER PACK**

10 x AMSOFT CF2 3" DISKS • 1 x AMS 30L 3" DISK STORAGE BOX • 2000 SHEETS LISTING PAPER • 1 x 3 PIECE DUST COVER SET • 3 x AMSTRAD CARBON PRINTER RIBBONS • 1 x CLEARHEAD 3" DRIVE CLEANING KIT

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE £69.96

**PCW 9 SERIES - DELUXE
STARTER PACK**

10 x AMSOFT CF2 3" DISKS • 1 x AMS 30L 3" DISK STORAGE BOX • 1 x 3 PIECE DUST COVER SET • 3 x AMSTRAD CARBON BLACK PRINTER RIBBON • 2 x AMSTRAD (ENGLISH) PRINTWHEELS, CHOOSE FROM LIST OPPOSITE • YOUR CHOICE • 1 x CLEARHEAD 3" DRIVE CLEANING KIT

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE £59.96

**AMSTRAD PCW 9 SERIES
PRINTWHEELS**

CHOOSE FROM THESE 9 DIFFERENT PRINTWHEELS
LETTER GOTHIC 10/12
MINI GOTHIC 15
ORATOR 10
PRESTIGE ELITE 12
PRESTIGE PICA 10
RECTA 10
SCRIPT 12
THESIS PS
COURIER 10



£5.95

FOREIGN PRINTWHEELS AVAILABLE. CALL FOR PRICES AND DELIVERY

CLEANING KIT

CLEARHEAD FOR 3" DRIVES

- Safer data storage
- Easy to use
- Prolongs disk and drive life

£5.95

**PCW PRINTER
RIBBONS**

GENUINE AMSTRAD

PCW 8 SERIES BLACK	FABRIC	CARBON MULTISTRIKE
	£4.80	£4.99
PCW 9 SERIES	BLACK	£2.99
	BROWN	£3.99
	BLUE	£3.99

MINIMUM ORDER — 2 RIBBONS UNLESS ORDERED WITH OTHER ITEMS

QUALITY COMPATIBLES

PCW 8 SERIES BLACK	FABRIC	CARBON MULTISTRIKE
	£3.29	£3.99
PCW 9 SERIES	£2.50	£2.69

MINIMUM ORDER — 5 RIBBONS UNLESS ORDERED WITH OTHER ITEMS

LISTING PAPER

11" x 9 1/2" 60gsm **£7.95**
1000 SHEETS

2000 SHEETS **£14.95**

(PLEASE ADD £4.00 TOWARDS DELIVERY ON ORDERS FOR PAPER UNLESS YOU ORDER WITH OTHER ITEMS, THEN DELIVERY IS FREE)

DUST COVERS

3 PIECE

PCW 8 SERIES **£8.95**

PCW 9 SERIES **£8.95**

AMSCASE

3" DISK STORAGE CASE • HOLDS 10 DISKS **£5.95**

AMS 30L STORAGE BOX

- High impact resistant, anti-static plastic construction with inset smoked lid panels.
- Hinged lid with key operated security lock.
- Stepped base for easy disk selection with a capacity for fifteen 3" disks either cased or uncased.
- Can accommodate up to thirty 3" uncased disks.
- Redesigned throughout and now attractively finished in grey.

ONLY £9.95



SAVE £5.00

PCW SOFTWARE 6 OF THE BEST

- MASTERFILE 8000 (Campbell Systems) **£34.39**
- MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL PLUS (Database Software) **£34.39**
- MONEY MANAGER PCW (Connect Software) (New improved version) **£34.39**

- DESKTOP PUBLISHER (Database Software) **£22.89**
- LOCOSCRIPT 2 (Locomotive Software) **£22.89**
- LOCOFILE (Locomotive Software) **£28.64**

(Please specify PCW 8 or 9 Series)

Massive discounts on all PCW software. Please call for details.

24 HOUR ORDER HOTLINE 0509 610444

**FREE
DELIVERY**

(EXCEPT PAPER). ALL GOODS USUALLY DESPATCHED SAME DAY. PLEASE ALLOW 2-5 DAYS.

**NO QUIBBLE
GUARANTEE**

IF ANY ITEM PROVES FAULTY WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF PURCHASE WE WILL REPLACE OR REFUND IN FULL.

**CUSTOMER
SUPPORT**

FRIENDLY ADVICE AND AFTER SALES SUPPORT. ANY PROBLEMS QUICKLY RESOLVED TO YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION.

**IT ALL
ADDS UP TO
A BETTER
DEAL FROM**

Computart

COMPUTART LIMITED, FREEPOST (80+), JUBILEE DRIVE, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTER LS11 0XS
TEL: 0509 610444 Fax: 0509 610235

NEW STAR SOFTWARE

THE OLD RECTORY, LONDON ROAD, WIDFORD, CHELMSFORD CM2 8TE, ESSEX.
TELEPHONE 0245 265017, FAX 0245 263969, TLX 995143

New Star Software's Autumn 89 catalogue is now out!



- more products
- prices shown inc & ex VAT
- extensive buyers's guide information
- network and multiuser pricing
- feature cross ref charts
- Expanded PCW section
- Business software
- Entertainment software
- **FREE**
- just ask!

NewStar Software: Original and best

Over 3 years of supplying software for the PCW user makes NewStar probably the most experienced company in the marketplace.

We were there from the launch of the PCW with any CPM

software transferred to 3" disk on request; and our classic CPM applications, *Touch 'n' Go*, *NewWord* and *Cracker* are still the best in their respective fields.

Several feature data and skill portability to MSDOS (IBM PC) systems, so skills learned on the PCW can be carried forward with no wasted effort.

Celebratory Offers!



To mark the appearance of our first major new catalogue for over a year, we are giving away a free copy of the *Trivial Pursuit* game, or for the more serious minded user, a copy of the outstanding keyboard trainer, *Touch 'n' Go* - with each order for £50 worth of PC software, accompanied by a copy of this advert. Offer applies until September 30th 1989.

From PCW to PC, and back again

Included in an expanded PCW catalogue section, is the latest edition of Software Technology's versatile CSTAM: the simple to use serial file transfer utility: available with 3" PCW disk, 3.5" and 5.25" PC disks.

Move files between any combination of these systems using the serial connector lead supplied.

- CSTAM £49.95
- PCW Serial interface £59.95
- CSTAM and interface is purchased together £99

Prices here are EXCLUDING VAT
All registered trademarks acknowledged.

More for the PCW owner than ever

By popular demand the PCW section has been expanded, and includes the complete *Loco* selection from *File to Font*.

Displaying it's usual commitment to be much more than just another software vendor's flag sheet, the all-new *New Star Software Buyers' Guide and Catalogue* is available free of charge - just call/write for your copy.

There are 64 pages describing a complete range of IBM PC (and compatible) software, plus an expanded section covering the best of the PCW software.

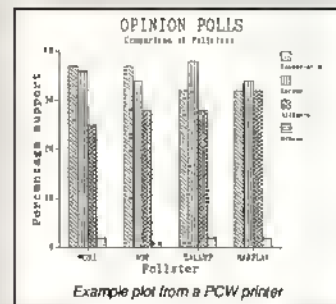
Accounts, wordprocessing, database and graphics are all covered.

Check and see if your local software stockist has the *New Star* catalogue available - and if not, ask them to get some in, but don't delay before getting your free copy!

Cracker 2 Turbo

still the only high res graphic spreadsheet for PCW users

The range of features and functions in Cracker remains



unsurpassed for the serious spreadsheet user. And don't forget, like *NewWord*, *Cracker* users can upgrade to MSDOS and CDOS systems, taking all data and experience as you go!

- Cracker2 £60.00

NewWord2:

the classic alternative WP for the PCW

Lost in *LocoScript*? You may be surprised to learn that the most refined *WordStar* work-alike of them all has been available to run on the PCW since long before *LocoScript* was dreamed of!

NewWord2 operates under the CPM operating system, and uses the universally recognised codes that allow trans- portability of the skill to virtually any micro computer - including systems operating under CDOS and Unix! What's more, the files are directly transferrable!

- *NewWord2* PCW £60
- *NewWord2* with *Polyprint* typeface sets, if purchased together £99.95
- Upgrade *NewWord2* PCW to IBM PC edition £39.95
- Upgrade *NewWord2* PCW to IBM PC edition with *STAM* file transfer utility suite £60

(Return of original master disk required with all upgrade purchases)

PaperBackUp Support

Don't forget that our affiliate publishing company, *PaperBack Software UK*, operates a comprehensive hotline and support service on all it's published products.

Extensive support, close integration of the facilities of UK published applications and the easy transfer of skill and data to other types of computer software like *Cracker* and *NewWord*, makes *PaperBack Software* the logical solution for all UK users.